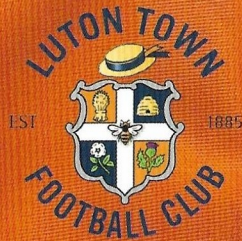


TALK OF THE TOWN



OFFICIAL AWARD-WINNING MATCHDAY
PROGRAMME OF LUTON TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

ISSUE 28 • £3.00



LUTON TOWN v BRAINTREE TOWN

SATURDAY 12th APRIL 2014
KICK OFF 12.52PM

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welcome

TO KENILWORTH ROAD

“ We’re almost there. In fact we could already be there.

The Hatters took one giant leap towards securing a place back in the Football League with a 2-0 win over Tamworth on Tuesday but you could all be smiling already depending on Cambridge’s result at Woking on Thursday which took place hours before this programme went to print.

Fingers crossed we’ll all be celebrating come the final whistle this afternoon but before that there’s the small matter of negotiating a tough fixture against our perennial bogey club Braintree, who won on their last visit to Kenilworth Road in October last season.

We take a look at the Iron inside these 68 pages but there’s plenty of reaction and action from Tuesday night’s victory throughout these pages as well as our usual look at all things Hatters including a look through the history books or a focus on our fantastic academy.

It’s so close now so get behind the team and be proud of your club. But, most importantly, enjoy it! #COYH ”



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LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB 2020 LTD

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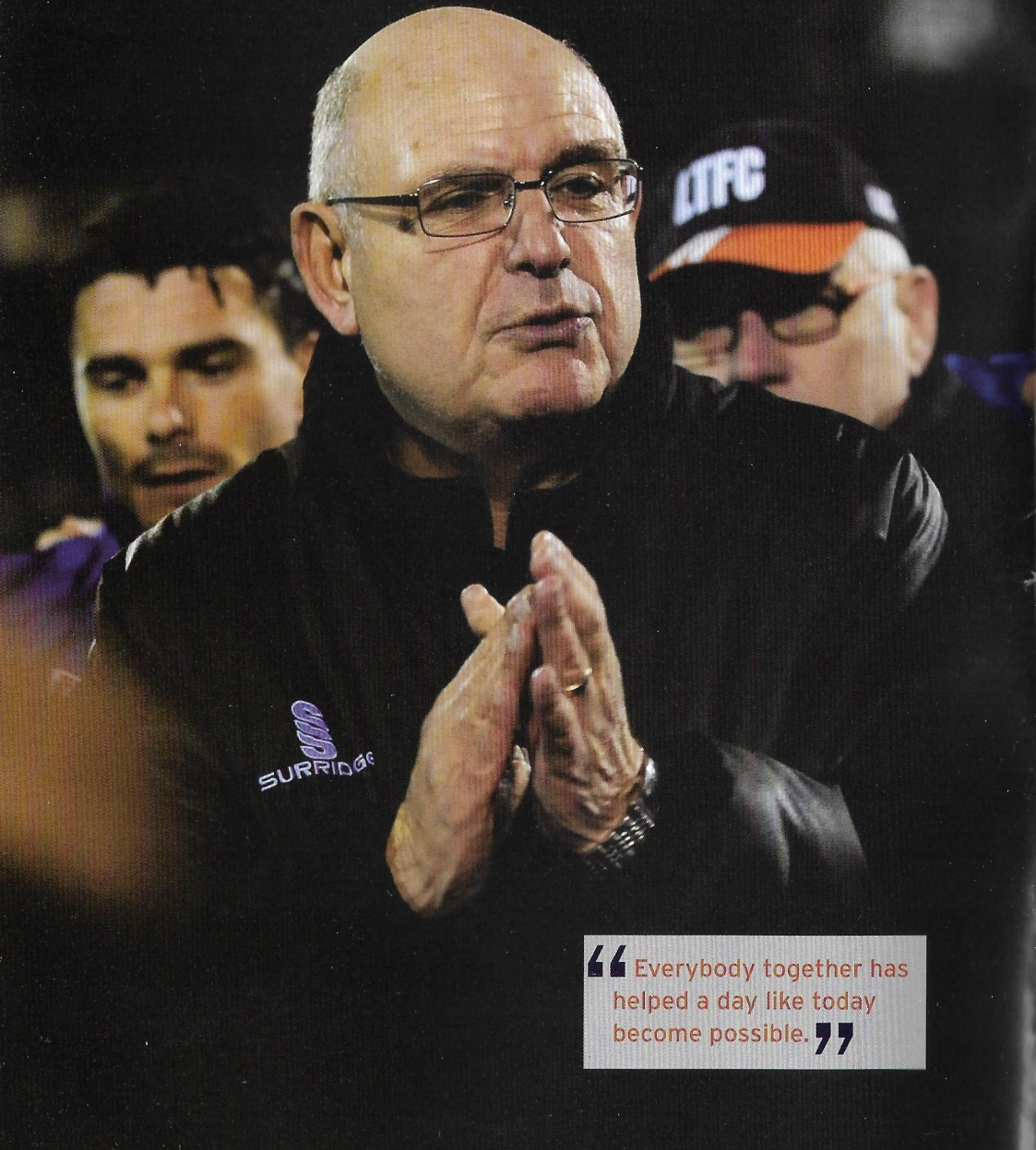
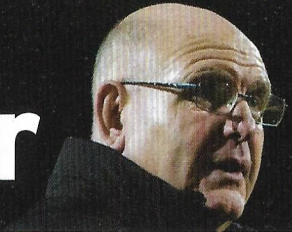
OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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PRINT: Barham Group
DESIGN: Heather Ellis - Relish Design

The views in this programme are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editor and/or Luton Town.

the manager

JOHN STILL



“Everybody together has helped a day like today become possible.”

Good afternoon and welcome back to Kenilworth Road for our third successive home league fixture in the space of a week.

I'd like to wish a warm welcome to Alan Devonshire, the Braintree manager, and his players and staff; together with the directors and supporters of the Iron. Our visitors have enjoyed a fine season and arrive with realistic chances of reaching the Play-Offs, which would be a magnificent achievement.

Alan has done an admirable job and we realise that today's opponents are going to make it really tough for us this afternoon.

Determination

However, we are in the fortunate position of knowing that, thanks to our recent good run of form, three points this afternoon will bring the championship to Kenilworth Road.

We have got into this position as a result of hard work, effort, determination and the skill of a fantastic group of players who have done incredibly well this season. It is also down to the amazing support we have had from you, the Luton supporters, and the board of directors.

Everybody together has helped a day like today become possible. Everyone has worked so hard for us to get into this position and we have to do everything we can to get over the line in the next four games, beginning today.

Our last home match on Tuesday saw us come up against a very, very determined Tamworth side, and thanks to a very good second half display we recorded a 2-0 victory which brought us the points. Our recent run of form has been excellent and to win five of our last six matches, against opposition also desperate for the points, is terrific.

However, I for one am not getting carried away. There is a lot of work to be done to get the points

required and it's important that everyone understands the reasons why we've got to where we've got to. Nobody is expecting anything...to achieve you have to work hard and, for me, that's the key.

After today we have a free midweek which gives us a good opportunity to store up some energy. It is a long season and it takes a lot out of you, so we will look forward to next week's Bank Holiday weekend fixtures against Welling and Forest Green.

Unity

I think it's really important that, as we come towards the end of the season, everyone associated with this Club joins together in unity.

Whether or not we are fortunate to get over the line today, or next week, or in the last game, let's show the unity at this football club in every game.

I want the players to play with pride and the supporters to back the team with the enthusiasm that has been here all season. Let's try and make this an occasion we will never forget. Unity will help us achieve that.

Today, though, we must focus on one thing, and that's to get the points here at Kenilworth Road. I'm ready, my staff are ready, the players will be ready and I know you will be, so let's try and win it today.

Remember

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remember why we are kicking off at 12.52pm today. The Hillsborough tragedy 25 years ago reminded everybody that there is more to life than football and before kick-off today, we will stand and remember those who lost their lives. With all the excitement, or disappointment, today remember there is always a bigger picture.

Enjoy the game.

John Still

boardroom

WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR GARY SWEET



A very warm welcome to you all along to Kenilworth Road for what we hope is the penultimate time this season on, what could be, a special and momentous day for this wonderful club of ours.

Not only do I welcome all Luton Town supporters, old and new, but those associated with our visitors Braintree Town who I must congratulate on yet another successive season in non-league's top flight. We wish them well in their quest for promotion in their four remaining matches after today.

Welcome

We also have the pleasure of welcoming a number of dignitaries from the Football Conference, including Chairman Brian Lee and his wife, Shirley-Ann, and General Manager Dennis Strudwick and his wife, Janet, who have lent our club huge amounts of support and advice during our time in the league.

We also welcome league sponsors Skrill, who – in their only season as title sponsors – have continued to raise the profile of the Conference divisions.

Throughout this campaign, and indeed during our time as custodians of the Club, we at 2020 have been humbled to be graced with the presence of many former players, and heroes of mine and my colleagues in the Boardroom.

Today is no exception as Barry Butlin, one of my all-time favourite players, will be a guest of ours this afternoon.

In my first season as a junior season ticket holder Barry helped fire us to promotion to the top flight with 17 goals in 36 games during our successful 1973/74 campaign in the old Second Division (now Championship).

Barry has followed our progress over recent seasons with close and enthusiastic interest and it brings me to

an important point about today and how people come to support a particular football club, including our own.

Why? Well I have a confession to make...I was an Arsenal supporter once.

Yes, you read that correctly! Ashamedly, I feel the need to explain.

My best friend at Leagrave Junior School was a Gunner. I liked the kit and I loved Charlie George's goal celebrations and, probably more importantly, his haircut. In my wisdom at the time I admitted this to my Hatters-mad-Mother.

A mighty wallop round the ear from my loveable Mum and being sent to bed without my dinner was followed by a trip to Kenilworth Road the very next day.

This put an abrupt end to any further ideas that may have been lingering of supporting any other football club – I was in love with Luton Town and Kenilworth Road and that was that.

Devoted

All of us – whether inside the ground today, or listening at home on the radio, or monitoring tweets on the other side of the globe – became a Luton Town supporter for a specific and personal reason. For all of us there are circumstances why we become devoted to a particular team; a family tradition, geography, a love for the kit, the hairstyle of a star player...

Today, let's warmly welcome those supporters who may be falling head over heels in love with this Club for the very first time. Tomorrow, next week, next season we are sure to gain new supporters at any age or background; supporters born into Luton-loving families, and we welcome them with open arms to be a part of our "New Luton".

We are here to help create and encourage your devotion and passion and establish the foundations of a Club that always shall.

This afternoon is very special because it represents a fantastic opportunity for you all to demonstrate what a united team we have all been this season to a live television audience. In front of BT Sport cameras, you have the chance to win this club even more friends and further fans.

And you never know, there might be a young Luton schoolboy watching on the box who likes the blue kit of Chelsea and David Luiz's hair who might just fancy changing his allegiance...

So today – supporters old and new – sing your hearts out and be loud and be proud!

We may even beg forgiveness as we stray from the polite etiquette of the directors' box (just this once) as I'm not convinced our enthusiasm will be totally contained.

Our (2020's) introduction to football has been a gruelling start which has tested our stamina in some ways but which is now reaping rewards thanks to the man who has united us and who has helped fashion a newfound togetherness – John Still.

Enlightened

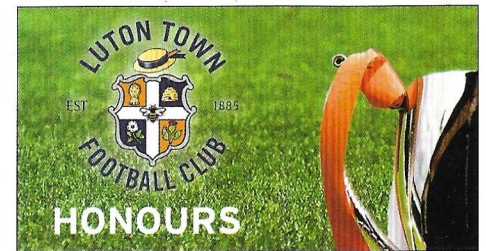
Whilst many of the foundation components were already in place and operational, John's skill, experience, knowledge, charm, wit and warmth has glued all of those components of this football club together and has enlightened us with a new direction and, while he may or may not realise this at the moment, there's a big chance the significance of his arrival may sink in should we have cause for celebration this afternoon.

So, it now comes down to 90 minutes of football this afternoon with the eyes of the nation focused on this the old girl we call Kenilworth Road – the place our heart knows as home.

Should the result go in our favour today I have just one small request; have a fantastic time, ENJOY it, let your hair down and be merry. Of course, there's no guarantee that today will be "the greatest day of our lives", but it's difficult not to pen these notes without alluding to the possibility that today, indeed, could just be our day.

The rollercoaster we've talked about so much in recent times is about to loop skywards once more... enjoy the ride, sing loud and be as proud as I know you always have!

#COYH



Littlewoods Challenge Cup:
Winners 1988, Runners-up 1989

FA Cup:
Runners-up 1959
Semi-finalists 1959, 1985, 1988, 1994

Johnstone's Paint Trophy:
Winners 2009

Simod Cup:
Runners-up 1988

Football League Division Two:
Champions 1981/82
Runners-up 1954/55, 1973/74

Football League Division Three (South):
Winners 1936/37
Runners-up 1935/36

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 1969/70

League One:
Champions 2004/05

Football League Division Four:
Champions 1967/68

Football League Division Three:
Runners-up 2001/02

Blue Square Premier:
Runners-up 2009/10

Southern League Division One:
Runners-up 1894/95, 1895/96

Southern League Division Two:
Runners-up 1913/14

United League:
Champions 1897/98
Runners-up 1896/97, 1900/01

Southern Alliance:
Runners-up 1913/14

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the captain

RONNIE HENRY

So it all comes down to today and guess what? We've got another massive test ahead of us as we face a Braintree side desperate for the points as much as we are.

I'm writing these notes before Cambridge's game with Woking on Thursday night so you could be reading this knowing that we've got the job done and we've been crowned champions.

Regardless of that, and if Cambridge drew or won at Woking, we need – and as players we want – to win today's football match. It's sometimes hard to comprehend how one 90 minutes of football can determine or define a whole season. We've had 42 matches so far and in each and every one we have been worked so hard by the opposition. Our record speaks for itself, and while we're sitting with the points and goals tally we have I can tell you it has been far from easy!

New Luton

Every opposing team makes it tough for us, doubly difficult because we are Luton Town. Not just because we're a team at the top of the league, but also because we're a club they would love to beat because there's no better satisfaction than silencing our thousands of supporters.

This season that has simply not been the case. The manager has spoken recently about a 'new Luton' and the mentality we have a group of players is one of the strongest I have ever known. As I said, it's one thing being top of the league but another to be top of the league and be Luton Town in the Skrill Premier.

The never-say-die attitude has been a constant theme all season. The 2-1 win at Braintree back in November is one of my most memorable evenings from this season because it was a game in which we knew would be tough. We also knew there was a history of bad results there but we rolled up our sleeves, and like so often this season, just got the job done.

It was a battling display, a performance you look back on and think 'that's a performance that typifies champions'.

We've come a long way since that cold, dark night in Braintree and have gone on to enjoy a fabulous season and it means today we have a shot at crowning a

fantastic campaign with the sole goal we all wanted to achieve back in July.

Today promises to be a magnificent occasion should we do it (or if we already have), but I know for sure that if there's one team that will want to spoil the party, then it will be Braintree. That have been in remarkable form given their hectic schedule of late and need the points for the

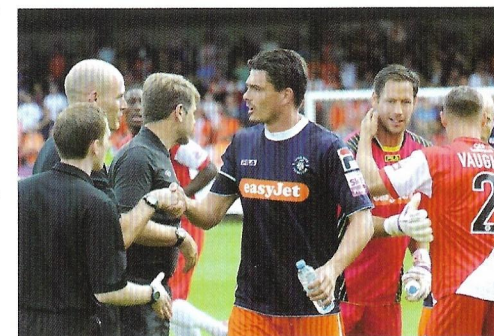
Play-Offs. However, we have won five of last our last six matches and the manager has said this is our best run of the form of the season given the circumstances and opposition and it's hard to disagree with him.

Winners

If – and that's a big if – the title is already ours as you read these notes, mark my words: we as a group will be going all out to make sure today is a day to remember. Yes, it would be great to know we've already done it, but our mindset will not change regardless. We are a team of winners and will be aiming to continue our top form today whether we need a result or not.

If, though, we do need a result today all I ask is that you give us ONE LAST PUSH. That's all we need now. I know there will be plenty of nerves in the stands should we need a point or three this afternoon, but keep calm as they say, and get behind us. You've been the 12th man all season and have been so instrumental in our success, so please roar us on and hopefully come the final whistle we can celebrate!

Enjoy the game.





(POTENTIAL) POST-MATCH CELEBRATIONS...

Today promises to be an emotional occasion at Kenilworth Road with the Hatters just one victory away from being crowned champions of the Skrill Premier.

We really hope the right result presents us all with the chance to celebrate and to offer our thanks to the players and staff as they receive their accolades, live on television. So, to make sure our celebrations go smoothly and to allow everyone to be part of, what we hope will be, a great occasion we would like to explain how the event will unfold.

Should we win the game, a stage will be erected on the pitch immediately after the full-time whistle. The players will leave the pitch before returning to receive their winners' medals and the championship trophy followed by a lap of honour. We ask you to respect this occasion, to allow the players to receive the recognition their efforts deserve, by remaining in your seats for the presentation.

With these planned preparations in mind, it goes without saying that this occasion will be a memorable one for everyone. There's no getting away from the fact the match and any potential celebrations will lead to a massive outpouring of emotion come the end of this particular fixture, but we would like to remind supporters that we wish everyone inside Kenilworth Road to

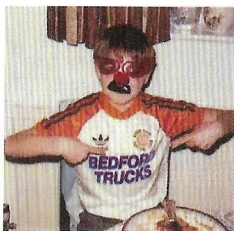
embrace and be a part of the party too. Please respect those supporters younger or older than you in the crowd and, as John Still says, "the stronger the team, the stronger the team".

Should there be cause for celebration today, please make sure that everyone is able to be a part of it.

We want you to be an enormous part of any celebration, so please allow the players to receive the recognition they deserve from each and every one of our supporters in all corners of the stadium – we will bring the trophy to you, wherever you are watching from!

Then let the real celebrations begin!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 40th birthday to avid Town supporter Graeme Smith who has been following the team since the age of five.

Lots of love from all your family and friends, and everyone at Luton Town. Enjoy the day!

SEASON TICKET BUY BACK

Are you a season ticket holder who cannot attend the Town's final home match of the season against Forest Green Rovers?

If this is the case, you can return your season ticket back to the Hatters' ticket office in exchange for a £5 shop voucher – and give a Town supporter, without a ticket, the chance to watch this final game of the campaign at Kenilworth Road. Season ticket holders who wish to do this for the Forest Green match can hand in or post in their voucher at the ticket office in exchange for a £5 shop voucher.

DISABLED SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE

In February we appealed for supporters to put their names forward to join a small working party to discuss all aspects of the setting up of a Luton Town Disabled Supporters' Association, and we have been delighted with the positive response we have received with dozens of you expressing an interest to be in at the start of something new and exciting at Kenilworth Road.

Invitations have now been extended to four of those expressing an interest, to join Club staff and Richard Hill, a Hatters fan who first contacted the Club with his ideas to create a new channel of communication between disabled fans and the Club.

This small group will meet once or twice before a larger, open meeting is held to canvas the opinions of anyone with a viewpoint on this important topic.

We have also contacted those who initially got in touch with us to ensure that they have the full opportunity to get involved at this early stage.

Richard explains why he contacted the Club in the first place. "The initial reason for contacting the Club was to create a channel where the Club and disabled supporters would be able to understand each other's needs and for the Club to gain a greater understanding of the issues facing disabled supporters in following Luton Town."

"A Disabled Supporters' Association would give disabled supporters an opportunity to have their say and to improve and enhance their experience of watching Luton

Town, especially at the Kenilworth Stadium. Hopefully we can also create an area on the Club website dedicated to all matters affecting disabled supporters, both for Luton fans and those of other clubs when visiting Luton."

Experiences

Town managing director Gary Sweet is fully behind the project.

He said: "We want to hear from our disabled fans to better understand what they like and don't like about their experiences following Luton Town and to learn from them what we might improve.

"We are limited, to some degree, by the constraints of exactly where our stadium was built, but we are extremely conscious of the need to at least listen to our disabled supporters and then to explain directly to them what we might be able to do and what we simply cannot.

Invaluable

"Having a Disabled Supporters Association will also be invaluable to us when we move closer to relocating our stadium as then we can really take on board the facilities requested by our supporters rather than what we think they might like."

We will continue to keep you informed of the progress of the Disabled Supporters' Association and will extend an invitation to everyone to attend an open meeting in the not too distant future.

IT'S SOLYD GOLD!

A big thank you to Hatters fans who took the time to send in their great ideas for a name for the SoLYD beer.

SoLYD are delighted to announce that the new fundraising pint will be called SoLYD Gold.

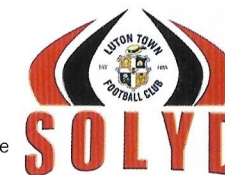
It's a fundraiser for SoLYD and, let's be honest, how else could we describe this season, the players and management other than pure gold?

Congratulations to Luton fans Steve Bailey, Tim Davis and Peter Langdon who all suggested the name and they will be the lucky three standing next to our very own

legendary manager, John Still, while he pours the first pint of SoLYD Gold.

And you can be there, too. All Hatters fans are invited to the launch at the Bricklayers Arms in Luton on Thursday 17th April

from 6pm onwards. Get there early to get a place, enjoy a pint and help SoLYD support the future of Luton Town. Cheers!



ON THE MONEY

2014/15 Season Ticket Prices

Matchday Ticket Prices

all areas		5 match voucher	
Adult	£20	Adult	£90
Young Adult	£15	Young Adult	£67.50
Senior	£15	Senior	£67.50
Golden Senior	£12	Golden Senior	£54
Youth	£8	Youth	£36
Junior	£5	Junior	£22.50

Season Ticket Prices - All Areas

CATEGORY	Age	early bird 3rd April - 9th May			prime time 10th May - 30th June			anytime 1st July onwards		
		Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond	Price	£ per match	Diamond
Adult	22-64	330	14.35	480	370	16.08	520	400	17.39	550
Young Adult	17-21	220	9.56	350	250	10.86	380	280	12.17	410
Senior	65-74	220	9.56	350	250	10.86	380	280	12.17	410
Golden Senior	Over 75	150	6.52	280	175	7.60	305	200	8.69	330
Unaccompanied Youth	10-16	100	4.34	150	100	4.34	150	100	4.34	150
Accompanied Under 17	10-16	60	2.60	110	60	2.60	110	60	2.60	110
Accompanied Under 10	Under 10	30	1.30	80	30	1.30	80	30	1.30	80

A THANK YOU... YOUR £30 DISCOUNT

The £30 discount applies to all existing season ticket holders (all categories). If you feel this applies to you, please tick the appropriate box on the season ticket application form and deduct £30 from the price shown on the price guide for your chosen seat.

Pay the reduced price if you think it applies, but please complete your contact details so we can get in touch if our records don't match. We do reserve the right to hold your Season Ticket at the Ticket Office for collection until any discrepancies are resolved. **DISCOUNTED SEASON TICKETS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BE BOOKED ONLINE.** The £30 discount applies to all existing season ticket holders who have held a season ticket for three of the last five seasons (all categories).

tickets

HOME & AWAY WITH THE HATTERS



OAK OPEN!

For the foreseeable future the Oak Road stand will be available to Hatters on a permanent basis. Tickets are available from the ticket office and, subject to availability, on the day of the match on the turnstiles. If you are a season ticket holder who wishes to swap their seat for one in the Oak Road stand please contact the ticket office.

HOME TICKET PRICES

Adults (22-64) £18, Young Adults (17-21) and Seniors (65-75) £13, Golden Seniors (over 75s) £10, Youths (10-16) £8, Juniors (under 10s) £5.



WELLING UNITED v LUTON TOWN

The Skrill Premier



SATURDAY 19th APRIL 2014, KICK-OFF 12.30PM

This game is all-ticket for Luton Town supporters will none available on the day at Park View Road. Please note the change in kick-off time for this match. We have an allocation of 2,000 tickets, consisting of 1,500 terrace places and 500 seats. Sales plan: Tickets will go on general sale on Saturday 12th April until Friday 18th April at 3pm. Prices: Terrace - £15 adults, £9 over-60s and under-16s; Seats £16 adults, £10 over-60s and under-16s. Wheelchair disabled tickets are available from Luton Town ticket office priced at normal prices plus a carer free of charge.



LUTON TOWN v FOREST GREEN ROVERS

The Skrill Premier



MONDAY 21st APRIL 2014, KICK-OFF 3PM

Tickets for this match have now sold out.



HYDE v LUTON TOWN

The Skrill Premier



SATURDAY 26th APRIL 2014, KICK-OFF 5.30PM

Please note the kick-off time of this match. This game will be an all-ticket match for Luton Town supporters. We have an allocation of 2,000 terrace places and 300 seats. Prices: Terrace: £14 adults, £8 over-65s, £5 under-16s. Seats: £16 adults, £10 over-65s, £7 under-16s. Sales plan - Tickets are only available on a one per person basis: Tickets are now on sale to season ticket holder until close of business on Tuesday 15th April. Subject to availability, tickets will go on general sale on Wednesday 16th April until Friday 25th April.

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WITH COMMERCIAL MANAGER DAVID HOSKINS

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COMMERCIAL MASCOTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming no less than seven mascots to Kenilworth Road this afternoon. They will all get to meet their favourite players before the game and then lead the team out onto the pitch. We hope you all have a fantastic day with us this afternoon.

Adam Boustred: Age 12 - Favourite player Alex Lawless

Amy Dewar: Age 15 - Favourite player Andre Gray

Cerys Young: Age 7 - Favourite player Ronnie Henry

Zak Tilley: Age 11 - Favourite player: Andre Gray

Hannah Soper: Age 14 - Favourite players Andre Gray and Mark Tyler

Finlay Jackson: Age 6 - Favourite player Alex Lawless

Lewis Young: Age 9 - Favourite players Andre Gray, Alex Lawless and Jake Howells

Oscar Rose: Age 6 - Favourite players Andre Gray and Steve McNulty

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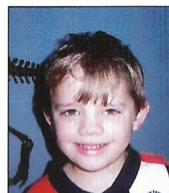
Cerys Young



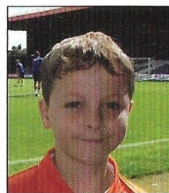
Zak Tilley



Hannah Soper



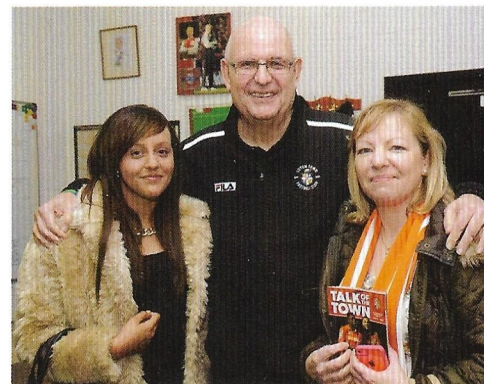
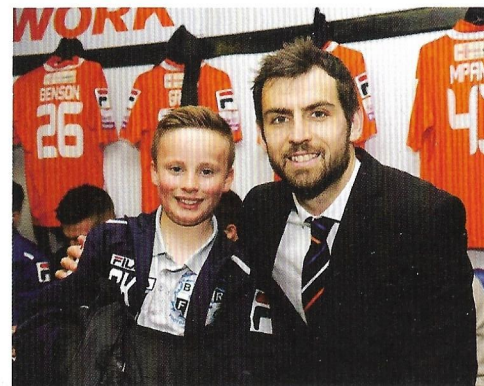
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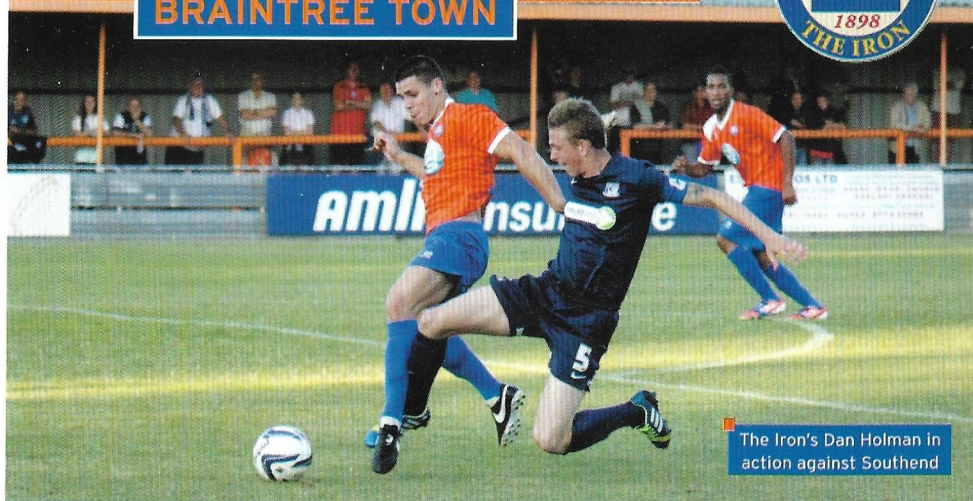
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welcome

BRAINTREE TOWN



The Iron's Dan Holman in action against Southend

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Braintree Town as our penultimate visitors to Kenilworth Road this season.

The Iron are enjoying a fantastic season - their third season in non-league's top flight - and have a great opportunity of extending their campaign in the Play-Offs.

Manager Alan Devonshire has worked wonders at Cressing Road and the Iron arrive in Bedfordshire this afternoon knowing a victory could lift them into the top five with just four matches left to play.

The Iron have made the headlines in recent weeks following their exhausting scheduled which saw Devonshire's side play three games in a six-day window that saw them travel 1,374 miles around the country with games at Southport, Gateshead and Halifax.

Devonshire's side picked up an impressive four points from those three fixtures but have since suffered two successive defeats which have stunted their progress slightly in the past week - both at home. A 1-0 defeat at home to Salisbury last Saturday was followed by a loss by the same scoreline on home soil against Macclesfield on Tuesday night. Away from Cressing Road the Iron have impressed on their travels with eight victories and six draws to their name from 21 matches on the road. Wins on the road have come at Dartford, Macclesfield, Wrexham, Hyde, Chester, Forest Green, Welling and, most recently at Southport. However, it is in their punishing fixture schedule that visitors have performed admirably in the last two months.

The Iron did not play a single fixture for a month between 11th January and 22nd February and since the resumption of their season Devonshire's side have won eight, drawn three and lost five of their 16 fixtures in the past eight weeks. It is a tremendous achievement and hopes are high in Essex that the Iron can take that fine form into their final five matches of the season, beginning at Kenilworth Road today.

After this afternoon's game the Iron have three of their last four matches at home, and take on Play-Off rivals Gateshead, Barnet and Grimsby.

Devonshire's side will be aiming to emulate their feat at Kenilworth Road last season that saw the Iron beat the Hatters 3-2. The Essex side led 2-0 before the Hatters fought back to level the score but Matt Paine netted against the 10 men of the Town to secure all three points in what was their first ever win on Bedfordshire soil against the Hatters.

The Town have rarely done well against the Iron in the previous meetings but the Hatters gained a modicum of revenge for a number of defeats in recent seasons by earning their first win at Cressing Road back in November with a 2-1 victory gained thanks to goals from Paul Benson and Andy Parry.

All eyes will be on the Hatters this afternoon if a result is needed to win promotion to the Football League but Braintree will be all out to gate-crash the party - especially given their own need for the points in their quest to make the Play-Offs.

in opposition

MEET THE BRAINTREE SQUAD

MANAGER

ALAN DEVONSHIRE. The boss. Took over at Braintree in May 2011. Previously in charge of Hampton and Richmond, as a player he played for Watford and West Ham, and won the FA Cup in 1980. He also won eight caps for England.

GOALKEEPERS

NATHAN McDONALD. Former Southend United goalkeeper who signed for Braintree in 2009. Kept 23 clean sheets in 46 games in the 2010/11 season when Braintree were promoted to the Conference.

NIK HAMMAN. Joined Braintree from Carshalton in the summer. Came through the ranks at Chelsea and had a spell at Hamburg.

DEFENDERS

RYAN PETERS. Joined Braintree from Margate in 2009. Has played 157 games during nearly five years at Braintree. Peters scored his first goal for the club at home to Tamworth in December.

SAM HABERGHAM. Came through the Norwich academy before signing for Tamworth in 2011. Braintree signed Habbergham in 2012, and he's gone on to make 73 appearances for Alan Devonshire's side.

NEWMAN CARNEY. Came through the Luton academy. Signed for Braintree at the start of this season and has made 19 appearances this season.

PAT O'CONNOR. Strong defender who joined Braintree in 2011. Has enjoyed loan spells at Tooting and Mitcham and Hampton. He also came through the Millwall academy.

DEAN WELLS. Inspirational at the heart of Iron defence has gone on to make 102 appearances for the side. Added rare goals earlier in the season against Wrexham and Chester.

SAM GRIFFITHS. Young full-back who came through Brentford's excellent academy. He captained their youth development side before signing for Braintree in 2013.

MIDFIELDERS

CHEZ ISAAC. Young composed midfielder signed by Alan Devonshire from Boreham Wood in summer 2013. Has featured regularly for the Iron this season, making 30 appearances for his side.

MATT PAINE. Versatile midfielder signed from Thurrock in July 2010. Can play centre-back or central midfield, he started his career at Colchester United before moving to Thurrock.

BRAD QUINTON. Legendary midfielder made his debut for Braintree in January 2000, and has gone on to make 546 appearances scoring 69 goals. Was rewarded for his loyalty with a testimonial in 2008.

BEN LONG. Well-travelled midfielder who has had a spell in Iceland. Had a trial at Championship Yeovil before signing for Braintree before Christmas.

KENNY DAVIS. Braintree skipper has gone on to make 159 appearances for his side since joining from Grays Athletic. An England C international, he was appointed captain at the beginning of the season

DANIEL SPARKES. Pacey winger who joined Braintree from Histon in 2012 on a two-year contract. Has made 64 appearances and has established himself on the wing.

LUKE DALEY. Joined the Iron side in 2012 and has also had spells with Norwich, Shrewsbury and Plymouth. Has made 53 appearances for Braintree, and scored eight goals.

ALAN MASSEY. Tricky midfielder who was formerly with Wealdstone, where he won the Stones' player of the season in 2008/09.

JOSH LAURENT. An influential figure in QPR's Under-18s' championship winning side who joined Braintree in February, and has made three appearances to date.

STRIKERS

SEAN MARKS. Big powerful striker who signed for the Iron from Heybridge Swifts. Has scored a very credible 86 goals in 236 games.

DAN HOLMAN. Young energetic forward who signed for an undisclosed fee in 2012. Previously played for Histon, where he was their leading scorer with 29 goals in 2010/11.

BERNARD MENSAH. Currently on-loan from championship side Watford, Mensah signed his first professional contract at the club in July 2011.

JORDAN COX. A pacey young striker who has come through Braintree's successful youth academy. Forced his way in to the first team following a string of good performances at the end of last season.

scout report

WITH MATT AQUINO

from the oak road

Having played just one game between 29th December and 21st February, Braintree are now looking to make up for lost time - and secure a Play-Off place to boot. Andy Grade fills us in on the Iron.

Alan Devonshire's Braintree Town have proved to be something of a bogey team for the Hatters during their time in the Conference.

The Iron have beaten Luton three times - two of which Luton's then new managers Paul Buckle and John Still were watching from the stands.

This time, Devonshire's men will not only be looking to spoil the Hatters' promotion party, but are also pushing for a Play-Off place themselves in a race which looks set to go down to the final day of season.

A closer look at Braintree's season so far

The Iron are currently seventh in the Skrill Premier and just three points off the Play-Off spots with 65 points in total. They have played 41, won 19, drawn eight and lost 14 whilst scoring 52 and conceding just 36 - which means they have the third best defence in the division, behind Luton and Cambridge.

Braintree's recent form has been patchy and may be a result of their packed fixture schedule which is due to their pitch being unplayable for large parts of the New Year.

Away from home, Braintree are a side to be feared. They have the third best record in the league having gained 30 points from 21 games - only losing seven matches on their travels.

Devonshire's plan will no doubt be to keep the game tight for as long as possible and this is certainly one of his sides strengths: The Iron have only conceded 14 goals in 41 first halves of football this campaign, and have only been losing going into the break on six occasions.

However, the Essex club are bottom of the 'points gained table' having earned just two points from losing positions all season.

How will they play? Who are their key men?

Alan Devonshire tends to line his side up in a 4-4-2 formation and is expected to carry on that tradition today at Kenilworth Road.

26-year-old Nick Hamman will start in goal for Braintree and will be protected by the central-defensive pairing of Alan Massey and the burly Dean Wells.

Matt Paine, a midfielder by trade, will operate at right-back with Sam Habergham, a 22-year-old who impressed against the Town last season, working on the other side of the back four.



Ex-AFC Wimbledon man James Mulley should start on the right and will be a threat if given the chance to run at Town's full-backs in one-on-one situations.

Club captain Kenny Davis will play in the centre of midfield alongside Chez Isaac - an industrious box-to-box midfielder who is a product of Watford's youth academy.

Daniel Sparkes is expected to play on the left-hand side of midfield.

Dan Holman, who is Braintree's top scorer this season with 13 league goals, will partner Sean Marks, who was suspended in midweek after receiving a red card against

Salisbury City on Saturday. Marks was Braintree's talismanic figure last season scoring 12 goals.



Skipper Kenny Davis

club data

Established: 1898
 Nickname(s): The Iron
 Stadium: The Amlin Stadium
 Capacity: 4,222 (Avg. attendance '13/14 -953)
 Manager: Alan Devonshire (Two years, 10 months)
 Final league position 12/13: 9th BSBP

TALK OF THE TOWN: There's only one place to start with Braintree - tell us about the disruption the wet weather has caused to your season and your crazy fixture schedule since. How do you feel the players have coped with this? Do you feel the Conference have treated the club harshly - or should the onus be on clubs to take steps protect their pitch?

ANDY: The pitch is on clay and it really doesn't matter how good your drainage is if the brooks and rivers that your pitch drain into are already flooded. I went down the ground to help on a number of occasions and it was ridiculous trying to get rid of the water when it was coming back up through the drainage. But referees are notoriously inconsistent - for example, if that pitch you played Barnet on was fit, all ours would have been! Our players have been magnificent in dealing with it and Devs [manager Alan Devonshire] has delivered a real siege mentality. The Conference have been really supportive and I understand that the club are spending more money on the drainage in the summer which, of course, means next year we will probably have a drought.

TOTT: When you have played, how has your season gone? What are you team's main strengths? Did you expect to be mounting a Play-Off push this season?

ANDY: We started the season well and then the weather interrupted the flow. We're a difficult side to break down and we've got good attacking options. Play-offs were never a target, every year it's 50 points. Until the new stadium comes.

TOTT: Who is the Iron's dangerman that Hatters' fans should look out for today?

ANDY: Dan Holman has been scoring goals for fun lately, but I'm delighted to see Jordan Cox back in the side - he's got the raw ability to go all the way.

TOTT: Braintree is notoriously a hard place to go and get a result as Luton have found in recent seasons. Why do you think this is? And why were Luton able to break their duck at the Amlin Stadium this time round?

ANDY: Some clubs do well at Braintree, others struggle. This season Luton have an excellent management team in John Still and Terry Harris and they know what it takes to get out of this league.



One to watch: Jordan Cox

TOTT: What's the best 'away day' in the Conference in your view?

ANDY: Best away day for me is Welling - a proper non-league ground where you're treated as a supporter and not herded like cattle.

TOTT: Your ground is of required standard to host league football - how many seasons away is the Football League for your side? Will promotion come this season perhaps? And what's your prediction for today's game?

ANDY: Experience tells us at Braintree that the team is usually ready before the ground, that's how it was in 2006 and 2011. This year we've a chance and for me, it's great having something to play for in April. As for today, it depends upon whether you've already won the league or need to win to lift the title. Either way, I know our lads will give it a go.

TOTT: Arrests for 'spot-fixing' - fixing certain elements of a game such as getting a yellow card or corner - have been made in the last few weeks in the professional game. What would you do to tackle this problem?

ANDY: Life bans for all. There is no place for any element of match fixing in the game.

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a hatter and...

...AN IRON

BEN CHENERY

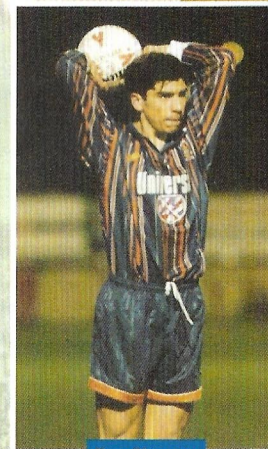
Just three players have represented the Hatters and Braintree down the years but together the trio only mustered 10 appearances between them in Luton colours.

In most recent times Newman Carney, a product of the Town's academy, made two appearances for the Hatters in the FA Trophy before leaving Kenilworth Road and joining Braintree via Dunstable this term. The left-back made his Town bow in a 2-1 FA Trophy replay win at Welling United in December 2010.

Striker Ben Wright joined the Town on-loan from Peterborough in 2009 and scored on his debut in a 2-1 win over Tamworth at Kenilworth Road. In total the frontman played five matches for the Hatters but he was back at Kenilworth Road and scored having joined the Iron permanently. That season, 2011/12, saw Wright hit 17 goals in 41 matches. That form saw him snapped up by Forest Green but he was back at Cressing Road with the Iron last season.

The third player to play for both clubs is Ben Chenery. Taken on as a youth trainee by the club under the noses of home-town club Ipswich, Ben made his Hatters debut at right-back in an FA Cup replay at Bristol Rovers in 1995.

Ben had to wait his chance for his League debut until the end of the following season, with the Town already relegated, but finding places at Kenilworth Road limited he joined Cambridge in 1997 where he enjoyed a regular full-back position. In total the defender only made three appearances for the Hatters. He signed for Braintree in 2008.



Ben Chenery

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?

Today will be the sixth meeting between the two clubs in league competition as the sides meet for the third season in succession following the Iron's promotion to the Conference Premier in 2011.

The Town saw off Braintree 3-1 in the first meeting between the two clubs in August 2011 thanks to two goals from Amari Morgan-Smith and one from Jake Howells.

It wasn't until April in 2012 that the two sides met again, a game watched by soon-to-be-installed manager Paul Buckle. He watched on in horror as Braintree eased to a 3-1 win. Adam Bailey-Dennis opened the scoring on five minutes before Andre Gray equalised two minutes later. Sean Marks fired the Iron back in front 20 minutes from time and a last-minute Billy Gibson penalty made the points safe for the Essex outfit.

Last season the Iron did the double over the Town and begun by winning 3-2 at Kenilworth Road on a

Tuesday night in October 2012. Dan Holman had the visitors ahead before Stuart Fleetwood was sent-off for the Hatters in 28th minute.

Four minutes later Braintree went 2-0 up through Sean Marks but Simon Ainge reduced the deficit for the Town eight minutes before half-time. Substitute Dan Walker equalised for the Town shortly before the hour but Matt Paine won it for the Iron on 67 minutes.

Later that season the Iron completed the double with a 2-0 win at Cressing Road in a game that saw both sides reduced to 10 men in the first half. This time the game saw John Still's first look at the team he was inheriting. But on the night goals from Sean Marks and Kenny Davis gave Braintree a comfortable win. The Iron's run of three successive wins over the Town came to an end this season, however, when the Hatters recorded a 2-1 in November thanks to goals from Paul Benson and Andy Parry.

back to the future

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS TRACES WHAT HAPPENED TO FOUR OF TAMWORTH'S GREATEST POST-WAR TEAMS

1997/98 PROMOTION WINNERS

PAUL CATLEY: Experienced goalkeeper who made over 400 appearances during three spells at Braintree. He joined Maldon in June 2003, then Witham and Sudbury. Now Braintree's goalkeeping coach.

LEE HUNTER: The son of former Northern Ireland international Allan Hunter, he had played in the Football League with Colchester United. He later appeared for Diss Town, Clacton Town and Maldon.

RUSSELL TANNER: Versatile defender who spent over ten years at Braintree before joining Heybridge Swifts in July 2001, then AFC Sudbury and Witham Town, becoming Maldon's assistant-manager.

GARY COLLINS: Former Witham midfielder who was Braintree's captain. He overcame injury problems that sidelined him for almost two seasons. He was forced to retire in February 1999, settling locally.

TREVOR GUNN: Much-travelled, experienced central defender who was in his second spell at Braintree and moved to Wivenhoe Town in August 2001. He now lives in Takeley, near Bishop's Stortford.

JOHN BISHOP: Tough-tackling central defender who played a big part in Braintree's meteoric rise. He joined Chelmsford City in July 1999, then AFC Sudbury until hanging up his boots in August 2004.

SHANE BAILEY: Midfielder who was in his second spell at Braintree and moved to Clacton Town in July 2000. He joined Maldon Town in September 2002 and has settled in nearby Black Notley.

BOBBY MAYES: Former England Semi-Pro international who moved to Felixstowe in February 1999, then played for Diss Town, Maldon Town and Clacton Town before finishing with Stowmarket.

GARY BENNETT: Leading marksman and 'Player of the Year' who was in his second spell at Braintree. He joined AFC Sudbury in June 1999, then Chelmsford City, Sudbury again and Witham Town.

MARK FARTHING: Much-travelled striker who was in his second spell at Braintree. He also played football in Finland and moved via Sudbury Wanderers to Clacton Town in July 1999 where he retired.

NICKY SIMPSON: Winger who was a product of Braintree's youth and reserve teams. He joined Heybridge Swifts in November 1998, then Braintree again before spells at Maldon Town and Witham.

2000/01 PROMOTION WINNERS

DEAN MAHONEY: Much-travelled goalkeeper who joined Grays Athletic in July 2001, then had spells with Chesham United, Sutton United, Maldon Town, Great Wakering Rovers again and Tilbury.

TERRY HOWARD: Experienced right-back with almost 400 Football League appearances. He joined Great Wakering Rovers in July 2002. Now living in Romford, he works in Billingsgate Fish Market.

MARK JONES: Former Burnham Ramblers, Romford and Billericay Town left-back who featured prominently in Braintree's rise up the non-League pyramid. He moved to Boreham Wood in August 2011.

GAVIN COWAN: England Semi-Pro international who has since played for Canvey Island, Shrewsbury Town, Grays Athletic, Nuneaton Town, AFC Telford, Fleetwood, Gainsborough and Nuneaton again.

RUSSELL TANNER: Versatile defender who spent over ten years at Braintree before joining Heybridge Swifts in July 2001, then AFC Sudbury and Witham Town, becoming Maldon's assistant-manager.

KIRK GAME: Much-travelled central defender who had played in the Football League with Colchester United. He moved to East Thurrock United in August 2001, since holding various coaching posts.

NICKY SMITH: Experienced winger who joined Maldon in July 2002, then Witham Town and AFC Sudbury, where manager between June 2008 and September 2011. He is now coaching Saffron Walden.

BRADLEY QUINTON: Long-serving midfielder who scored Braintree's goal in the history-making FA Cup first round tie at Shrewsbury Town in 2005/06. He now holds the club's appearance record.

ROBBIE REINELT: Experienced striker who was leading marksman, moving to Grays Athletic in May 2002. He joined Maldon Town four months later, then had spells at Ford United and Boreham Wood.

TOMMY NOBLE: Hard-working former Maldon Town striker who scored several great goals for Braintree. He rejoined Maldon in May 2003, then had spells playing for AFC Sudbury and Tiptree United.

LEON GUTZMORE: Striker who joined Cambridge City in December 2001, then Arlesey, Aylesbury, Hemel Hempstead, Histon, Aylesbury again, Barton Rovers, AFC Kempston Rovers and Arlesey again.



2005/06 ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

NICK MORGAN: Goalkeeper who moved to Crawley Town in July 2008. He rejoined Braintree seven months later and was then loaned to several clubs before joining Billericay Town in September 2010.

BILLY BURGESS: Right-back who also helped Braintree to reach the FA Cup competition proper for the first time in 2005-06. He moved to Dartford in July 2009 and has since played for Cray Wanderers.

MARK JONES: Former Burnham Ramblers, Romford and Billericay Town left-back who featured prominently in Braintree's rise up the non-League pyramid. He moved to Boreham Wood in August 2011.

MATT JOSEPH: Ex-Barbados international with over 350 Football League appearances. He featured in Braintree's history-making FA Cup first round tie at Shrewsbury before hanging up his boots.

OLLIE ADEDEJI: Central defender who also played in Braintree's history-making FA Cup first round tie at Shrewsbury Town in 2005-06. He moved to Boreham Wood in January 2008, then Chesham.

PAUL LORRAINE: Midfielder who helped Braintree to reach the FA Cup competition proper for the first time. He has since played for Fisher, AFC Wimbledon, Woking, Wimbledon again and Ebbsfleet.

ANDY PORTER: Influential midfielder who also appeared in Braintree's history-making FA Cup first round match at Shrewsbury Town in 2005/06. He is employed as a building consultant in Braintree.

BRADLEY QUINTON: Long-serving midfielder who scored Braintree's goal in the history-making FA Cup first round tie at Shrewsbury Town in 2005/06. He now holds the club's appearance record.

ALEX REVELL: Ex-Cambridge United striker who returned to the Football League with Brighton in July 2006, since playing for Southend United, Wycombe Wanderers, Leyton Orient and Rotherham United.

CARL GRIFFITHS: Experienced striker with over 300 Football League appearances, including a spell at Kenilworth Road. Later with Brentwood and Maldon Town, he has since been manager/coach of Brentwood, Barking and Aveley.

EUGENE OFORI: Winger who helped to reach the FA Cup competition proper for the first time in 2005/06. He was loaned to several clubs before joining Boreham Wood in August 2008, then Northwood.

2010/11 CONFERENCE SOUTH CHAMPIONS

NATHAN McDONALD: England C international goalkeeper who was ever-present for Braintree in 2010/11. He was ever-present again in 2011-12, since contesting a first-team slot with Danny Naisbitt.

PHIL STARKEY: Former Tonbridge Angels right-back who was in his second spell at Braintree. He moved to Dover Athletic in July 2011, then played for Margate and is currently with AFC Hornchurch.

MARK JONES: Former Burnham Ramblers, Romford and Billericay Town left-back who featured prominently in Braintree's rise up the non-League pyramid. He moved to Boreham Wood in August 2011.

ADAM BAILEY-DENNIS: Central defender who came on as a substitute in last season's televised FA Cup first round tie at home to Tranmere Rovers. He moved to Bishop's Stortford in December 2012.

MATT PAINE: Versatile favourite who is equally comfortable in midfield and central defence. He appeared for Braintree in last season's televised FA Cup first round match at home to Tranmere Rovers.

KENNY DAVIS: Influential England C international who captained Braintree in their televised FA Cup first round match at home to Tranmere Rovers last season. He is the club's regular penalty-taker.

SAM LECHMERE: Midfielder who lost his place at the start of the following season and moved to Boreham Wood in September 2011, then played for Billericay Town and is now with AFC Hornchurch.

BRADLEY QUINTON: Long-serving midfielder who scored Braintree's goal in the history-making FA Cup first round tie at Shrewsbury Town in 2005-06. He now holds the club's appearance record.

NICKY SYMONS: Tough-tackling midfielder who occasionally plays at right-back. He was a key figure as Braintree finished in their highest-ever position in 2012-13, ninth in the Conference Premier.

SEAN MARKS: Striker who was leading marksman with 25 goals in 2010-11. He was top scorer again last season as Braintree finished in their highest-ever position and reached the FA Cup first round.

JAI REASON: Consistent midfielder who missed just two matches as newly-promoted Braintree consolidated Conference Premier status under Alan Devonshire in 2011-12, joining Eastleigh in May 2012.

TOWN 2-0 TAMWORTH



Cameron McGeehan puts the Town in front against the Lambs

The Hatters took a massive step towards a return to the Football League after two second half goals gave them a comfortable victory over Tamworth.

After a goalless first half, that saw leading goalscorer Andre Gray limp off with injury, Cameron McGeehan broke the deadlock four minutes after half-time – his second goal in as many games – before the points were made safe when substitute Mark Cullen thundered home a second goal on 65 minutes to put the Town in touching distance of the title.

The Hatters could have secured the championship without kicking a ball on Thursday should Cambridge have lost at Woking. If that didn't happen, three points against Braintree today will be enough for the Town to start celebrating.

As has become the norm in recent weeks, the Town found life difficult against a side battling for points at the other end of the table and Tamworth, all but relegated following this defeat, made the Hatters work hard to keep the score goalless at the break.

Clear-cut chances were at a real premium. Luke Rooney volleyed over the bar on 14 minutes and it wasn't until the 32nd minute for visiting goalkeeper Dale Belford to be tested properly when Gray nutmegged his man down the left, raced into the box and saw his low shot blocked by the keeper's legs.

Opportunities were still thin on the ground as half-time approached but the Town were hit by an injury to Gray five minutes before the break when he raced onto a sublime touch by Paul Benson and went to ground in

the penalty area, and moments later he was replaced by Cullen. After 45 minutes of stalemate the Town began the second half brightly and Cullen saw a left-foot shot kept out by the outstretched arms of Belford 50 seconds after the restart, with Rooney's follow-up also blocked.

But Tamworth weren't so lucky three minutes later when the Town took the lead. A fine flowing move involving Steve McNulty and Cullen saw Jake Howells cross from the left and his low ball into the box was met by McGeehan and he tucked home underneath the body of Belford for his second goal in as many games.

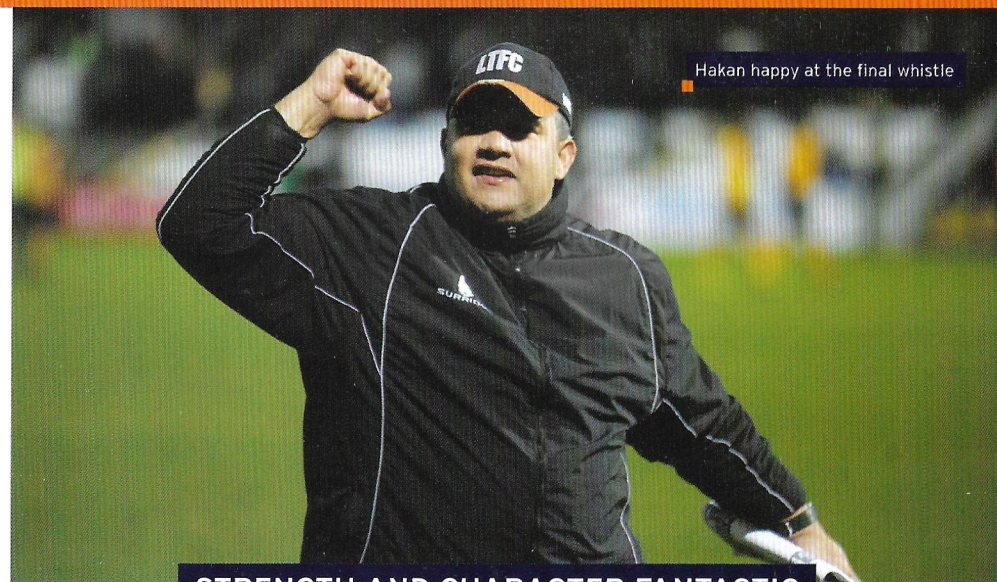
McGeehan came close to doubling his and the Hatters' tally on 64 minutes when his header destined for the top corner was caught by Belford, but the Town faithful didn't have long to wait for a second goal when Cullen made it 2-0 a minute later.

Substitute Alex Lawless raced through the middle of the park and, after waiting for the run of Cullen, he slipped the striker in on goal and he did the rest, thrashing an emphatic left-foot strike beyond Belford for his eighth goal of the season.

As the Hatters pursued a third goal, Howells thought he should have had a penalty on 72 minutes having fallen under a challenge after haring into the box but saw the referee wave away the appeals. Cullen then had a volley from a Howells corner held by Belford six minutes later.

The Town couldn't find a third in four minutes of stoppage time but it mattered little: the Hatters had the points in the bag knowing that one more win will seal a return to the Football League.

TOWN 2-0 TAMWORTH



Hakan happy at the final whistle

STRENGTH AND CHARACTER FANTASTIC

Town first team coach Hakan Hayrettin praised the Hatters' strength of character after their 2-0 victory over Tamworth at Kenilworth Road.

The Town are now on the brink of a return to the Football League. A victory against today will guarantee promotion, depending on the outcome of Cambridge's result with Woking on Thursday.

Hayrettin told Hatters Player afterwards: "The strength and character that we've shown again in the second half to come through, to play at a higher tempo and to push teams back was absolutely fantastic."

The Hatters improved after a nervy first half performance and took the lead early in the second half through Cameron McGeehan. Mark Cullen doubled the lead soon after following a great through ball from Alex Lawless.

Andre Gray came off towards the end of the first half as he was hurt in a challenge with Ben Richards-Everton.

"It was an overstretch," said Hayrettin. "I'm not sure of the outcome of that at the moment but fair play to Mark Cullen. He gave us a different way of playing and he took his goal very well."

Hayrettin went on to endorse the Hatters young players. "He (McGeehan) came to me and said he scored two in two. The manager's really utilised the youngsters in midfield well."

"A few weeks back McGeehan was rested, but he's come back in the side and done ever so well. People need to realise that the average age of our squad is quite young. We've got some young players in our squad that aren't over 21 yet, and their doing a fantastic job for Luton Town Football Club."

The Hatters recent form has been very good. Despite playing teams that are pushing for the Play-Offs or trying to stave off relegation, the Town have taken 20 points out of a possible 30 in their last 10 games.

And Hayrettin was quick to heap praise the Hatters' defence. Town have the second best defensive record in the league behind Cambridge, and against the Tamworth night equalled their clean sheet record for a season, with 22.

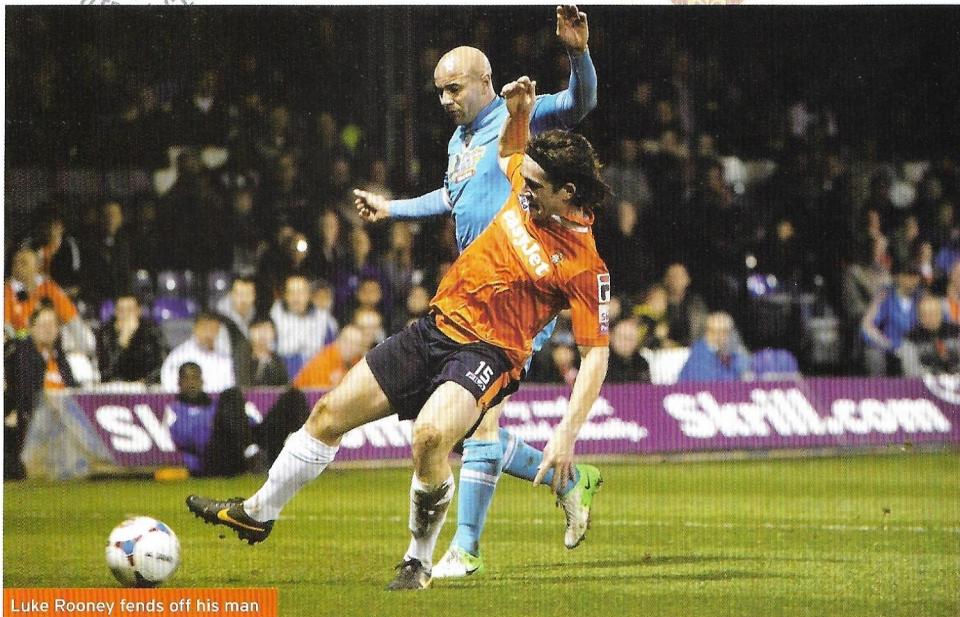
He added: "Again a clean sheet at home, which is very, very important. Clean sheets win championships. Our manager's always said that and it's the truth, it's there in black and white."

"However as much ball retention that Tamworth had, they didn't really hurt us because we've got such a good defence."

"Nothing is really said about our goalkeeper but he commands the area so well, he talks to them so well and it's a credit to them that they've kept a clean sheet again."

LUTON TOWN 2-0 TAMWORTH

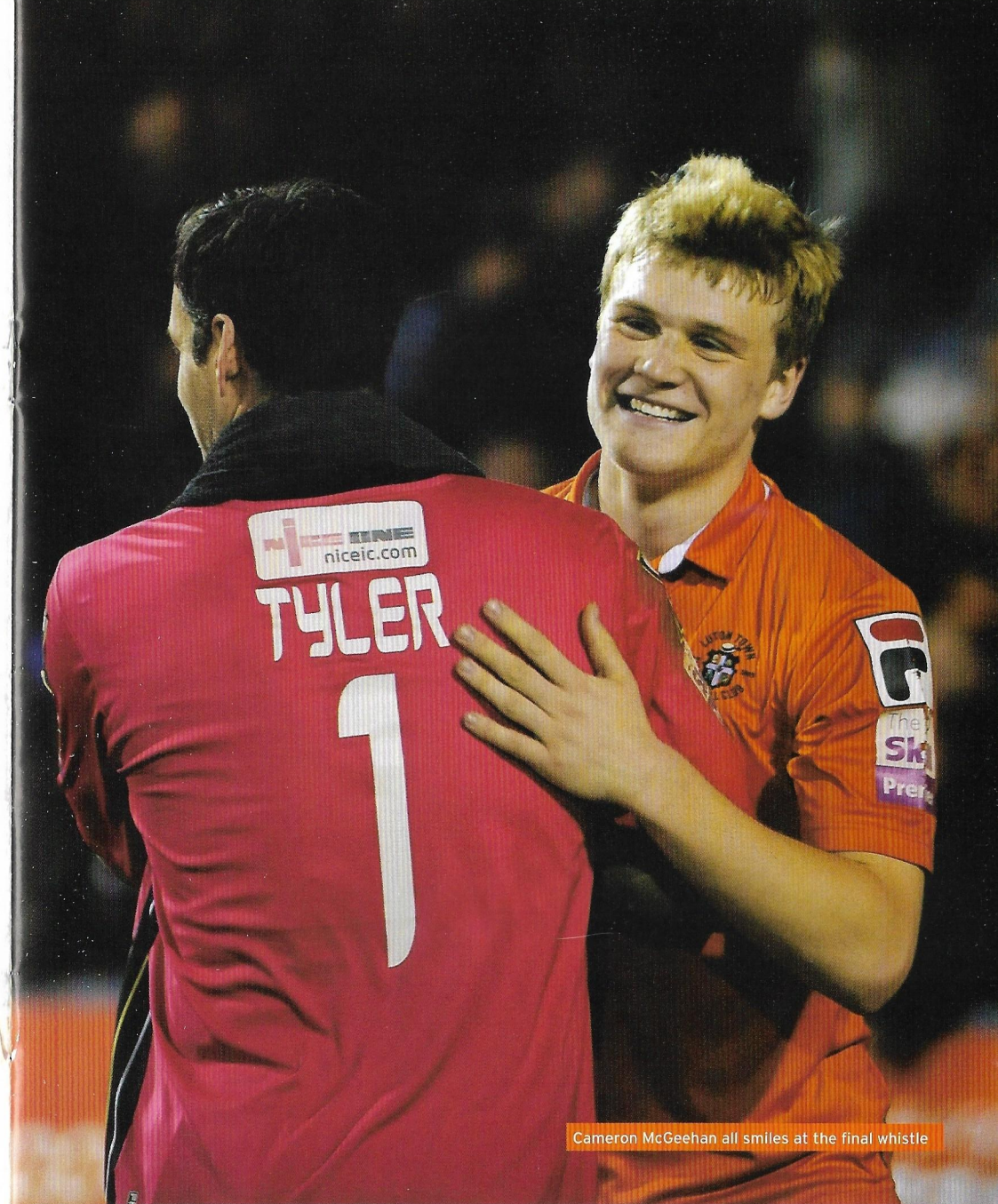
McGeehan 49, Cullen 65



Luke Rooney fends off his man



Mark Cullen fires the Hatters 2-0 in front



Cameron McGeehan all smiles at the final whistle

TOWN: Tyler, Henry, Griffiths, McNulty, Franks; McGeehan, Robinson, Rooney (sub Lawless 63); Howells, Gray (sub Cullen 41), Benson (sub Shaw 82). **SUBS NOT USED:** Ruddock, Justham.

TAMWORTH: Belford, Caprice, Keane, Evans, Richards-Everson, Baker, Morgan, Thornton, Mahon, Chadwick (sub Richards 56), Gooden (sub Woolery). **SUBS NOT USED:** Reindorf, Kerry, Peniket.

POSSESSION	57%	43%
CORNERS	9	7
SHOTS ON TARGET	6	1
SHOTS OFF TARGET	3	4

FOULS	0	10
YELLOW CARDS	0	1
RED CARDS	0	0
ATTENDANCE: 8,554 (13 TAMWORTH)		

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reaction

CULLEN ON TARGET



Mark Cullen scored his eighth goal of the campaign on Tuesday night after the striker was called upon late in the first half due to an Andre Gray injury.

It was the 65th minute when the 21-year-old found the back of the net, thanks to a superbly weighted through ball from Lawless to set the youngster on his way. The former Hull forward kept his head and finished powerfully past the onrushing Cameron Belford.

Opportunities for Cullen have been limited with both Gray and Paul Benson on fine form and scoring regularly for the Hatters, but Cullen is ready to take his chance when it comes and proved that he can deliver.

"It's always pleasing for me to get on the pitch and to get a goal is an added bonus," Cullen told Talk of the Town. "It's always disappointing to see someone go off injured, but I have to take my opportunity however it comes. I like to think I am quite deadly in front of goal, particularly in and around the 18-yard box which I have shown with my goal.

"The lads (Gray and Benson) have been scoring goals all season and I can't really complain. It's a bit frustrating that I haven't been able to get much game time, but I feel that when I've came off the bench I've made an impact."

The striker, who also scored the Town's last-minute equaliser at Cambridge last month, praised Tamworth's hard work and persistence in the first half. The Staffordshire side made it hard for the Hatters in the early exchanges, but the Town's patience finally paid off early in the second half.

"They're scrapping for their lives down at the bottom of the table," the youngster told Hatters Player. "They want every point that they can possibly pick up and we knew straight away they would come to try and get something. Tamworth played some nice football at times. However, we stuck at it and in the second half we were a bit too much for them."

Cullen admitted that the expectancy of the supporters does not faze the Town players and is happy that his side are picking up points regardless of what fashion they come in.

"Realistically you're not going to win every game by six or seven goals. You have to grind out the 1-0 and 2-1 wins and it's not realistic for any team to beat a team 7-0.

"We are lucky to have done that a few times this season. You can understand that the fans want to see attacking football and we have tried to provide that all season."



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reaction

HOWELLS DEDICATES VICTORY TO FANS

Jake Howells wants to win the Skrill Premier title for the fans, as the Hatters moved to within touching distance of the championship following a 2-0 win over Tamworth last Tuesday night.

The Town midfielder has been through it all with the Hatters, having faced relegation from League 1 through to the Conference over the past seven years.

He has made over 272 appearances for the Town and is one of the longest-serving players currently on the books at Kenilworth Road.

Throughout his time at Luton he has seen the side face numerous relegations and point deductions but now he wants to pay it all back to the magnificent Town support.

With the midfielder coming close to gaining promotion in the 2011/12 season - after a Play-Off Final loss to York City - the 22-year-old knows what it is like to narrowly miss out on promotion, as do the Town faithful who have been with Howells throughout his journey.

"We are very close to promotion now," Howells told Hatters Player. "It's been a long time for me, considering how long I've been at the club and missing out through the Play-Offs which was heart-breaking. The manager has told us that the door is open now and all we have to do is go through it."

The England C and Wales Under-21 international has been influential in the Town's last two home wins, as the midfielder provided two assists in his last two games, with the important crosses from which Cameron McGeehan scored twice, one against Aldershot and the other against Tamworth.

"That's my job, to get the ball in the box and hope that somebody can get on the end of it," continued Howells. "Cameron has scored two in his last two through crosses from me; it's brilliant to get two important assists."

Howells admitted that the title has always been the Town's to lose, despite at one point trailing Cambridge United by as much as 10 points in the league standings.

"It's always been in our hands since day one," explained Howells. "People were saying that we hadn't started too well, but we kept going. We were 10 points behind Cambridge at one point and now look where we are, it's been a brilliant effort from everyone."

It would mean a lot to Howells if the Town were to be crowned League Champions today at Kenilworth Road - as the number 11 has faced a gruelling five seasons of non-league football with the Hatters.



Distances

"It would mean a lot to me if we could get out of this league, but it's more for the fans. They travel long distances on a Tuesday night and they are there when we need them," Howells said.

"To gain promotion from this league would mean a lot more to the fans than anything. Our support is better than some League 1 and League 2 clubs, and I'm sure if we gain promotion that will continue to grow."

centre spot

Cameron McGeehan slides home the
Town's first goal against Tamworth





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A	U	F	O	E	R	J	D	I	U
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F	E	V	B	S	N	G	E	F	F
D	S	Q	B	L	O	N	J	E	R
C	E	J	U	Z	N	A	E	M	I

Gray
 Mpanzu
 Henry
 Robinson
 Benson
 Guttridge

Can you find the six players names above?

Which three players have I swapped heads with?

NAME:
 EMAIL:

COMPLETE THE PUZZLES AND FILL IN YOUR DETAILS. THEN RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE TICKET OFFICE TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING TWO MATCH TICKETS

McGeehan

Cameron McGeehan had a fine game during the Hatters' 2-0 victory over Tamworth on Tuesday night, scoring once and playing a part in the second Town goal scored by Mark Cullen.

The young midfielder, on loan from Norwich City, won 15 headers and three tackles sitting in front of the Hatters back four to break up

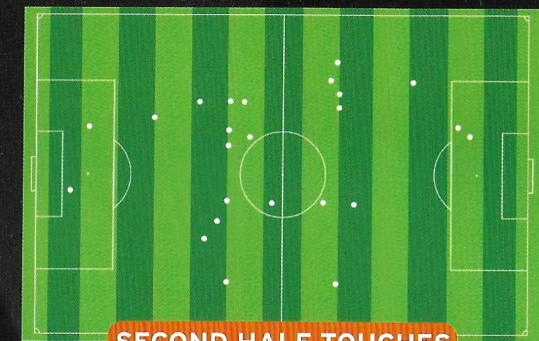
Tamworth attacks. He also attempted 11 passes and completed eight of them in the first half.

McGeehan was also involved in both Town goals. He scored the first one, taking the ball under control before placing the ball underneath Tamworth keeper Dale Bedford's body.

He played his part in the second goal, winning a challenge in the middle of the park before giving the ball to Lawless. Lawless then played a through pass to Cullen who blasted the ball past Belford.

Despite having less touches in the second half as the graphics demonstrate, McGeehan was more effective in both penalty boxes, scoring and having a header saved by Belford. He also made two interceptions in his own penalty box.

McGeehan had a very good game overall at breaking up the play, making three more successful tackles and winning eight headers. Overall McGeehan won 23 headers, six tackles, completed 10 passes and scored one goal throughout the 90 minutes.



SECOND HALF TOUCHES

GOALS

1

TACKLES
WON

6

PASSES
ATTEMPTED

17

TOUCHES

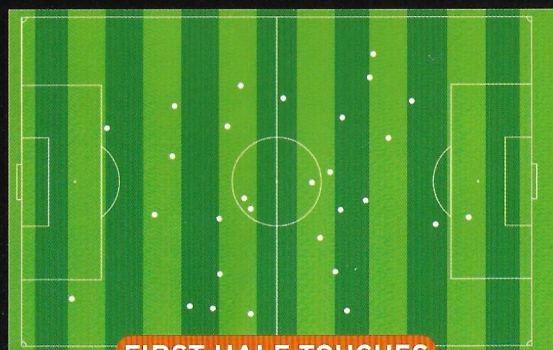
53

HEADERS
WON

23

PASSES
COMPLETED

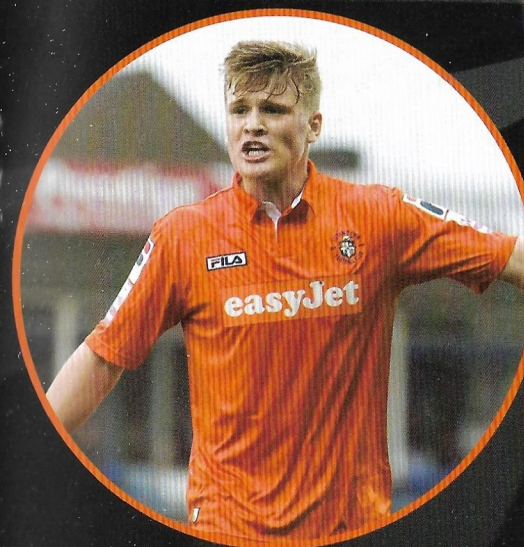
10



FIRST HALF TOUCHES

PASSES
INCOMPLETE

7



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from the press box

WITH MEDIA-VU'S GRAHAM MILLER

Do you remember watching Dr Who from behind the sofa? The story on the telly was so scary that although you wanted to know what happened you couldn't bear to watch.

Well that's how it's been for we ex-pat Hatters this season. Running my company Media-Vu means I usually work at a Premier League game on a Saturday or midweek. Being paid to watch some of the best league football on the planet? Well someone has to do it.

The other side of the coin though is that I don't get to see the Town play first hand. It was whilst watching them as a Luton schoolboy in the 1960s that made me think a job in the media might be an interesting thing to do.

I would read every word of Eric Pugh's football reports in the 'Luton News', 'Tuesday Pictorial' and Saturday night 'Green Un.' He wrote under the by-line 'Chiltern' and I thought this was probably the best job in the world. My careers teacher said I could have been a doctor – but frankly I didn't have the patients (sic).

Anyway, as a Town fan at a different ground I'll see the final score and then only later find out what happened. Never mind watching from behind the couch it's like following a game back to front.

This of course has been the most important week for Luton in five years. An anxious time for the players. Nervous for the regular fans. And agony for the rest of us who can only guess what's happening from afar.

Take last Saturday for example. I was working at Carrow Road. An important game between Norwich and West Brom. Significant enough for Chris Hughton to lose his job after the Canaries lost at home to the Baggies.

But as the Premier League game was reaching its climax. West Brom hanging on to a 1-0 lead, my mind

began to wander. Eyes on the game in front of me of course. Concentration in place. But other thoughts began to surface. What was happening at the Kenny? Strangely I was in the same Carrow Road press box seat from which I reported the Town knocking Norwich out of the FA Cup last season.

The first non-league side to beat a Premier League team remember. And on their home ground to boot. What an afternoon that was. What a great chapter in the Hatters' history book. I was lucky. I was there. Albeit working. But I saw it for myself. A warm glow inside I recall as I kept my reports professional and impartial. The sight of 4,000 Luton fans jumping up and down; singing their hearts out in sheer joy was good enough.

But it's different when you're working somewhere else. So whilst waiting to interview a beleaguered Chris Hughton I finally grabbed a moment to discover the result of the Aldershot game. A winner from Cameron McGeehan five minutes from time. Fantastic. A player, of course, on-loan from Carrow Road.

Then on Tuesday a rare night off. And so I had the chance to see the game against Tamworth.

Early on I was struck by the crowd's silence against the Lambs. It seemed as if the players were waiting for the fans to lift them. While the supporters were too busy biting their nails.

The second half though changed everything. And at the end the relief was palpable with John Still conducting the main stand in a rendition of 'Champions!'

The manager has dubbed the club 'New Luton.' I'm sure we all agree. And now the history book awaits some new chapters. Brilliant! Congratulations all round and let the dreaming begin.



The scenes at Carrow Road last year - a different cause for celebration

picture the past

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

The Town had clinched promotion from Division Three (now League 1) at Mansfield on 20th April 1970. All that was left was a trip to Greater Manchester on the following Saturday to take on Rochdale in a re-arranged game. Had there been anything riding on the result it is doubtful the game would have been played due to the waterlogged state of the pitch but the Town squelched their way through to a 2-1 win.

Viv Busby is pictures scoring the Town's first goal, watched by a seated Malcolm Macdonald, in front of a crowd of 5,886 with over 50% from Luton.



camera never lies

CLUB HISTORIAN ROGER WASH DELVES INTO HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE





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A Big Heart Club in Memory: James and Ben - Our Town, Our Club, Our Family

Recorded by Justin Scales at Luton Lemon Audio (mixed by Mark Bishop)

Artwork by @spandio.org

Printed at @dunelmprint

Images courtesy of @spandio.org/Luton Town Football Club/©Gareth Owens/T. Gabriel City

Wonderful Town is a photofabre production, made in Luton.



on this day

12th APRIL

THE RECORD

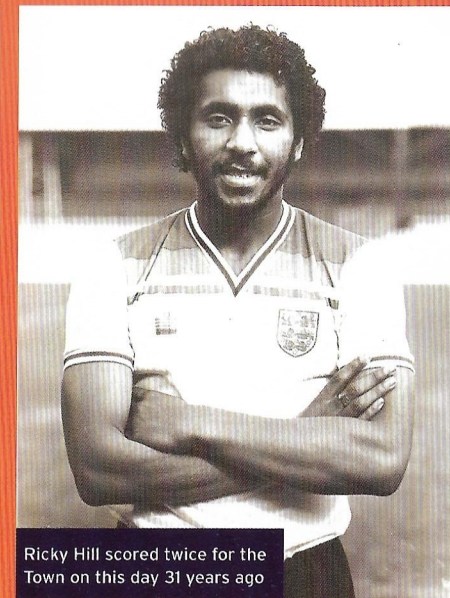
A busy day in the Town's history with 31 matches played since the first one played back in April 1897. It's a mixed record for the Hatters on 12th April with 12 wins, 13 defeats and six draws. The Town have scored 35 and conceded 39.

31 YEARS OF HURT

The Hatters haven't tasted a victory on this day for 31 years. The Town have gone nine matches without a win on 12th April with the last victory coming in the top flight in 1983. That day Birmingham City were the victims as the Hatters triumphed 3-1 at Kenilworth Road thanks to two goals from Ricky Hill and a Brian Horton penalty.

The Hatters' record in these nine winless games consists of three draws and six defeats – all of which were on successive matches played on 12th April.

Among those defeats, the Town lost 3-0 at Manchester United in 1988 in the First Division, 3-2 at Walsall in the Second Division (now League 1) in 1997, 2-0 at QPR in 2003 and 3-0 at home to Swindon in 2004.



Ricky Hill scored twice for the Town on this day 31 years ago

ABSOLUTELY LAWLESS

The Town might not have won their last nine games on this date but despite this they are unbeaten in their last two fixtures on 12th April and have current midfielder Alex Lawless to thank for that.

The Welshman has scored the only goal for the Hatters in their past two matches on this date. He grabbed an equaliser in a televised trip to Crawley Town in 2011 before scoring in the Town's 1-1 draw with Grimsby – a game also on the box – last season at Kenilworth Road.

ONE KEITH ALLEN

Lawless and Hill are two of four Town players to score more than one goal on this day in the history books. Centre-forward Keith Allen netted twice in two victories for the Hatters in successive seasons in the old Division Four (now League 2). He netted the sole goal in a 1-0 win at home to Southend in 1967 before scoring the opening goal a year later in a 2-0 win over Notts County at Kenilworth Road. Graham French scored the Hatters' second goal against the Magpies and he netted in another victory for the Town on this day a year later, in 1969. That day Brighton and Hove Albion were the

victims, as the Hatters won 3-0 thanks to further goals from Brian Lewis and Alan Slough.

TOP FLIGHT TOWN

The Hatters lost their first match in the top division on 12th April back in 1958 when losing 1-0 at Nottingham Forest. It wasn't until 17 years later that the Town would be playing in the top flight again on this day when securing a 3-0 win over Leicester City at Kenilworth Road in 1975. Adrian Alston, an own goal and a Jimmy Husbands strike earned the points against the Foxes. The aforementioned win over Birmingham followed before a Mike Newell goal gave the Town a point against Tottenham at Kenilworth Road in 1986.

BEST SEQUENCE

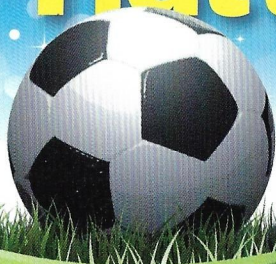
The Town's best run of form on 12th April came in a 28-year period between 1924 and 1952 that saw the Hatters record four successive victories. Norwich were beaten 2-1 in 1924; Brentford were seen off by the same scoreline in 1930; the Hatters then beat West Brom in 1947 and then Rotherham in 1952.

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Personal Injury**

The Hatter's Cup, now in its 8th year, has become the biggest stadium football tournament in Southern England with over 1,200 youngsters taking part on the pitch at Kenilworth Road Stadium.



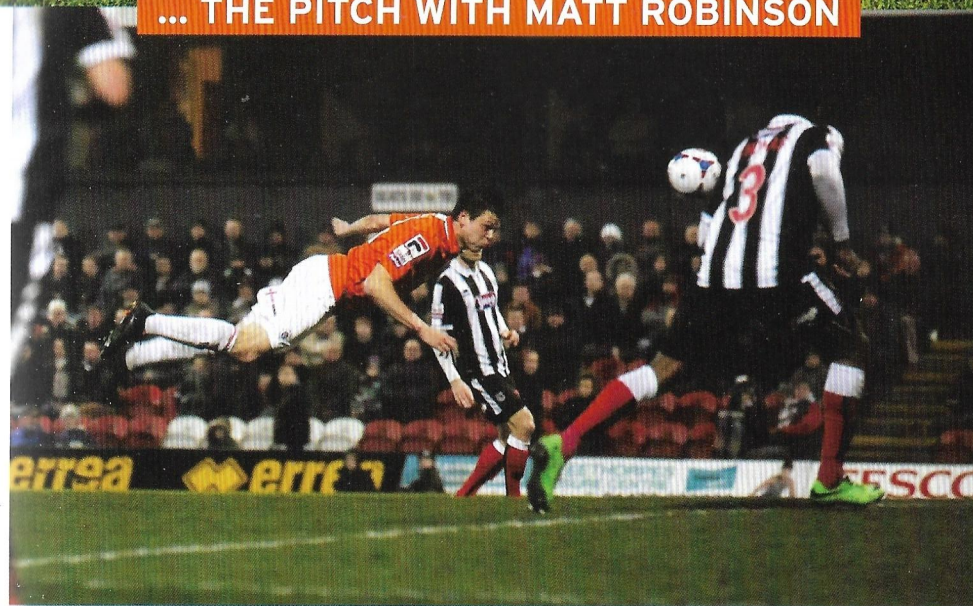
For entry forms contact James Hatch:
01582 583618 or james.luton@live.co.uk
You can also download the application form from www.lutontown.co.uk
Closing date for entry forms: **27/04/14**

**Saturday: Under 7s/9s/11s/13s
Sunday: Under 8s/10s/12s/14s**

Luton Hemel Hempstead Tring Milton Keynes

on and off...

... THE PITCH WITH MATT ROBINSON



ON THE PITCH

WHAT IS THE BEST GOAL YOU HAVE SEEN THIS SEASON?

Alex Wall's goal against Halifax.

WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU'VE EVER FACED?

Kieron Murtagh.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO IMPROVE ABOUT YOUR GAME?

Pace. My speed.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUPERSTITIONS?

I always touch my tattoo before I play.

HAVE YOU GOT A TIP FOR YOUNGSTERS?

Don't leave your talent in the hands of the talentless.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?

Emirates Stadium.

WHO SIGNED YOU AS A PRO?

Paul Buckle.

WHO DO YOU SUPPORT?

Leicester City.

OFF THE PITCH

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

Making the people I've known all my life proud of me.

WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND IN FOOTBALL?

Joey Jones (on-loan at Woking and with Yeovil) and Harrison Panayitou.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST QUALITY?

Confidence.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME?

The Wire.

WHO IS THE LAST PERSON YOU'D WANT TO UPSET?

Myself.

WHAT WAS THE LAST ITEM YOU BOUGHT YOU'VE HARDLY/NEVER USED?

A French dictionary.

IF YOUR LIFE STORY WAS FEATURED IN A FILM, WHO WOULD PLAY YOU?

Leonardo DiCaprio.

WHAT DON'T WE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I've sang at the Royal Albert Hall in a choir when I was 13. I appeared on Gareth Malone's programme "Boys Don't Sing".

in development

FINAL FIXTURE FOR TOWN YOUNGSTERS

The curtain comes down on the Town Under-18s' season in the Youth Alliance this afternoon when Paul Driver's side entertain Crawley Town at Ely Way.

The Hatters youth team have enjoyed a good season in the South East division of the Alliance and reached the third round proper of the FA Youth Cup.

The Youth Cup dream came to an end after extra-time defeat against Huddersfield – who went onto beat Manchester United later in the competition – but the run saw the Hatters beat Rothwell Corinthians, Corby Town, Leighton Town, Boston United and Gateshead, scoring 20 goals in the process.

Two players who began the campaign in Driver's squad have gone on to sign professional contracts and our congratulations go to both Zane Banton and Ian Rees who penned deals to be part of the first team squad.

Both players made their senior debuts for the first team this season with Banton also appearing in the Skril Premier, and the duo have been joined by Tinashé Chabata, Luke Trotman and Charlie Smith on the field in the FA Trophy this term.

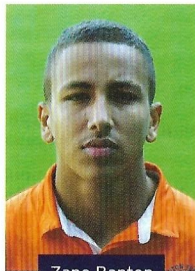
A number of the Town's youngsters have spent 2014 on-loan at senior clubs to prepare them for the rigours

of competitive football, with Charlie Smith at Hitchin, Jemale McKenzie-Lowe at Bedford and Banton and Rees at Concord Rangers.

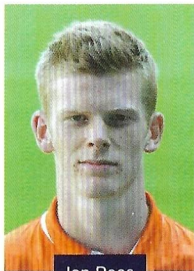
Quality

Driver has blooded a number of players from the Town's under-16s squad since the turn of the year and younger players have shown terrific attitude and quality in league fixtures against several Football League clubs.

A full report from today's game against AFC Wimbledon, together with a complete review of the Under-18s' campaign, will be inside the final issue of Talk of the Town against Forest Green on Easter Monday.



Zane Banton

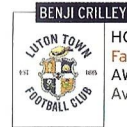


Ian Rees

youth team



KIT SPONSORS 2013/14



BENJI CRILLY
HOME: Fasel
AWAY: Available



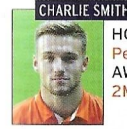
LEEROY MAGURAUSHE
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



BEN BARNES
HOME: First Capital
Connect
AWAY: Available



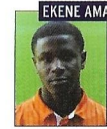
JEMALE MCKENZIE-LOWE
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



CHARLIE SMITH
HOME: Peter Mitchell
AWAY: ZMB



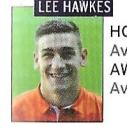
HARRY TAMPLIN
HOME: Allianz
AWAY: NPA Commercial



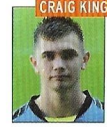
EKENE AMADI
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



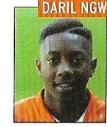
ISAAC GALLIFORD
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



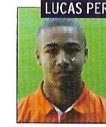
LEE HAWKES
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



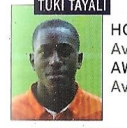
CRAIG KING
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



DARIL NGWALA
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



LUCAS PERRY
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



TUKI TAYALI
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



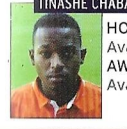
LUKE TROTMAN
HOME: Doug Knight
AWAY: Available



AREL AMU
HOME: University of Bedfordshire
AWAY: Available



OSAMU ALLMAN
HOME: Machins Solicitors
AWAY: Available



TINASHÉ CHABATA
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available



PAUL DRIVER
HOME: Available
AWAY: Available

Key: • First Substitute | • Second Substitute | • Third Substitute

DATE	TIME	H/A	OPPOSITION	SCORE	POS	STARTING XI
AUG	Sat 10 11.00am	A	Dagenham & Redbridge	W 4-2	3	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly
Sat 24 11.00am	A	Leyton Orient	W 3-1	6	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
Sat 31 11.30am	H	Portsmouth	W 4-2	3	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
Sat 14 11.00am	A	MK Dons	W 1-0	2	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
Sat 21 11.00am	H	Watford	L 0-1	3	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
Wed 25 7.30pm	H	Rothwell Corinthians (FAYC1)	W 6-0	-	King Crilly	
Sat 28 11.00am	A	Leyton Orient (LC)	L 1-3	-	King Crilly	
Sat 5 11.00am	H	MK Dons (LC)	D 2-2	-	King Crilly	
Wed 9 7.30pm	H	Corby Town (FAYC2)	W 5-1	-	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
Sat 12 11.00am	A	Barnet	W 4-1	2	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
Sat 19 11.00am	A	Dagenham (LC)	W 2-1	-	King Crilly	
Tue 22nd 7.30pm	H	Leighton Town (FAC3)	W 3-0	-	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
Sat 26 11.00am	H	Northampton (LC)	L 0-1	-	King Crilly	
NOV	Sat 2 11.00am	A	Northampton	W 2-1	2	King Crilly
Wed 6 7.30pm	A	Boston United (FAYC1)	W 4-0	-	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
Mon 18 7.00pm	A	Gateshead (FAYC2)	W 2-1	-	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
Sat 23 11.00am	H	Peterborough	W 1-0	2	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly	
DEC	Sun 8 7.30pm	A	Huddersfield Town (FAYC3)	L 1-3	-	Barnes Trotman Chabata Crilly
Thu 19 2.00pm	H	MK Dons	W 2-1	2	King Crilly	
FEB	Tue 4 12 noon	A	Watford	D 2-2	3	Whybrow Crilly
Tue 11 12 noon	H	Barnet	L 1-4	-	King Crilly	
Sat 22 11.00am	H	Stevenage	L 1-2	-	King Crilly	
Tue 25 12 noon	H	Gillingham	L 0-1	-	King Crilly	
MAR	Sat 8 11.00am	H	Colchester	D 0-0	-	King Crilly
Tue 11 12 noon	A	Stevenage	W 2-1	5	King Crilly	
Sat 15 11.00am	A	Southend	L 0-1	5	King Crilly	
Tue 18 12 noon	H	Northampton	W 2-0	5	Gooch King	
Tue 25 12 noon	A	Colchester United	L 0-1	-	King Crilly	
Sat 29 11.00am	A	Peterborough United	L 1-2	-	Gooch King	
APR	Sat 5 11.00am	A	AFC Wimbledon	D 1-1	-	King Crilly
Sat 12 11.00am	H	Crawley Town	-	-	-	-

PUMA YOUTH ALLIANCE UNDER-18 SOUTH-EAST LEAGUE 2013/14

	P	W	GD	PTS
1 Colchester United	20	14	27	44
2 Peterborough United	19	11	26	38
3 Gillingham	17	10	17	34
4 Portsmouth	17	10	11	33
5 Luton Town	19	10	7	32
6 Watford	18	9	9	29
7 Southend United	18	8	1	28
8 Leyton Orient	18	8	2	25
9 AFC Wimbledon	18	8	-1	25
10 Stevenage	19	7	-11	24
11 Northampton Town	18	7	-7	23
12 Barnet	20	7	-8	22
13 Crawley Town	18	4	-15	16
14 Milton Keynes Dons	19	4	-22	15
15 Dagenham & Redbridge	18	2	-36	7

LUTON TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB & TRUST IN LUTON

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Sunday 13th April 2014

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academy update

WITH OPERATIONS
MANAGER MARC TRACY



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CONGRATULATIONS!

Good afternoon and welcome to what could well be one big celebration as we gain promotion back to the Football League.

Of course we could still need three points so what better way but to do that today in front of some many passionate Luton Town supporters.

I must congratulate John Still, Terry Harris, Hakan Hayrettin, Jeff Wood and Dave Richardson together with their support staff and all the players who have played their part to make this season so memorable. Together they have provided a great platform for the Hatters to progress from and we are all very proud of their achievements. Well done to everyone involved.

Gaining success is the best feeling, however, there has been tremendous preparation, hard work, discipline and attitude which needs to be laid to ensure days like today happen. It's not luck, it's no fluke, it's fully deserved. It demonstrates and outlines the consistency and togetherness everyone has played! So congratulations and enjoy.

Whilst everyone will be looking to join in the celebrations, there are others behind the scenes who probably will not be in attendance today, because they always have one eye on tomorrow and the future, and that's where the academy structure comes in.

I'm sure we will have our representatives out and about viewing games and players alike, and it's their valued support that plays an important role in today's success.



In the academy a selection of Under-9-14s are also participating at the London Soccerdome this afternoon against Cambridge United prior to playing AFC Wimbledon tomorrow. We are always keen to provide new opportunities and playing at this impressive facility will support their education. It never stops and why should it – let's keep on progressing and moving forwards.

This week we have also seen over 500 players within the Luton Town Youth programme (Academy, Pre-Academy and Centre of Excellence) participate at the impressive Stowe School in Buckinghamshire and it has been a major success. It was an impressive sight to see so many young players in Luton Town kit enjoy playing and representing the club whilst looking to perform well. I'm sure there will be many of them here this afternoon supporting the Town to a well-deserved title of Champions!

Enjoy!

The future is bright...the long term is with the Hatters!



Get Started with Football and The Prince's Trust

If you are 16 – 25 and into Football but out of work, not in education or training then Get Started with us and achieve your goals.

Join our FREE football programme with Luton Town FC Community Trust and Bedfordshire FA where you could gain:

- training from qualified professionals from Bedfordshire FA
- gain the FA Level 1 Award in Coaching Football
- obtain the FA Safeguarding Children in Football & Emergency First Aid Award
- the chance to develop existing and new skills, confidence, and motivation
- opportunities to make new friends
- receive three months support from the Prince's Trust after the programme to help you move into training, volunteering, education or employment

When? Taster Day: 22nd April 2014 Main Programme: 28th April – 2nd May 2014

Where? Luton Town FC, Kenilworth Stadium, 1 Maple Road, Luton LU4 8AW

To register your interest or for more information call or text 'football' to David on 07717 511141 or email david.benge@princes-trust.org.uk



Luton Ladies

BECOME PART OF AN FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE CLUB!

Luton Town Ladies are now moving forward with expansion plans beginning with new Under-10 and Under-14 squads for next season.

The Club has a long tradition of producing their own players through the youth team and that policy has stood the Town in good stead over the years with a majority of the current senior squad having represented the club at youth level.

Rarity

The youth section has its own home venue with small clubhouse which is a rarity in itself. Club Manager Dave Baker explained to Talk of the Town: "It is clear that for clubs such as ours the only way forward is to continue to produce our own players who have been developed by ourselves."

"Women's football has lost many clubs in the past few years with the most common reason being the lack of new players coming through.

It is very different to male football where replacement players are not in short supply.

With continued and controlled development it is hoped the Club will continue to thrive as it has done since 1996."

With recruitment in mind the club intend to hold a Girls Festival for interested girls/school teams on Saturday 3rd May from 9.30am.

Girls in current school years 3 and 4 are welcome along where some senior players will be present to answer any questions potential new players might have. The event is also supported by FA Tesco skills coaches and individuals are welcome as are teams.

Please register your interest by emailing lutontownlfc@hotmail.co.uk for more detailed information.

Any girl who would be interested in becoming part of next season's new Under-14 squad can also register interest prior to trials which will take place in June.

The Town Ladies will also be recruiting players for their senior squads and next years Under-15 and Under-16 squads so please contact the above mentioned email address for details of pre-season training in June.



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my only luton

A FAN'S TALE

MY NAME: Mark Sorby

MY AGE: 50

MY LOCATION: Merseyside

MY TIME SUPPORTING LUTON TOWN:

No-one introduced me to Luton – I started following football when I was seven years old and briefly flirted with Everton because of friends but, at the end of the 1969/70 season, just as Everton were winning the Championship, I saw Luton's name on TV as runners-up to Orient in the Third Division and that was it!

MY FIRST LUTON GAME:

Because of my location, my first games were away matches, the first one being a 1-0 defeat at Bolton in 1977 in the Paul Futcher era but my first home game was in October 1979 when Luton beat Sunderland 2-0 with two David Moss goals. I stood in front of the Main Stand and just loved the atmosphere, which made up for the fact that the game I'd chosen to make my first 350-mile round trip was also chosen by Match of the Day as one of their rare Division 2 games so I would have seen it anyway!

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GAME:

Apart from the finals and the big games, I think the best game I saw was the 3-3 draw at Liverpool in our first season back in Division 1 in 1982.

Paul Walsh scored a great opener but we lost our keeper and went 2-1 down. However, despite using three keepers, we went 3-2 up and ended up with a draw, playing some of the best football I've seen us play.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON GOAL:

One of my favourite Luton goals was the last goal of that season in 1982/83. Having sat in the Maine Road stands for 87 minutes, the surreal split-second of realising that Raddy Antic's shot was in the net is a memory that's still as vivid 30 years later.

MY FAVOURITE LUTON PLAYER:

My favourite all-time player is Ricky Hill, just the most skilful player I've ever seen at Luton

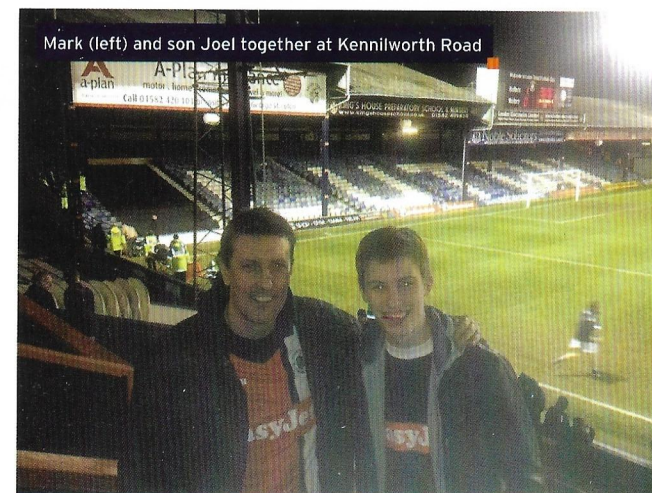
MY ALL-TIME TOWN XI:

Mark Tyler, Tim Breacker, Steve Foster, Mal Donaghy, Matty Taylor, David Preece, Ricky Hill, Graham French, Brian Stein, Malcolm Macdonald, David Moss.

YOU ARE MY LUTON, MY ONLY LUTON...WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPIEST ABOUT FOLLOWING THE HATTERS?

The thing that makes me happiest about supporting Luton now is that despite – genuinely – no coercion from me, my son Joel, now 17, has become a committed Luton fan and I am able to attend games with him. Our location means we can't get to as many games as we'd like, but we always enjoy the ones we do attend and one of the best memories of my 43 years as a Hatter was the day of the FA Cup game against Wolves last season – coming down early to eat in Luton, visit the shop beforehand and make a day of it, the fantastic atmosphere, Alex Lawless' goal (probably my second-favourite!) and the gut-wrenching last nine minutes.

I've got lots of memorabilia but the photo I've submitted is probably one of my most treasured possessions - as someone brought up on non-league and lower-league giant-killing acts on FA Cup third round days in the 70s, it was (like the Norwich game a few weeks later) just a truly special day.



Mark (left) and son Joel together at Kennilworth Road

You too can share your Hatters memories. Use the headlines as a guide and email andrew.barringer@lutontown.co.uk, or submit your application by post.

from left midfield

BY KEVIN CROWE

AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA BELIEVE US

Well, this is it Ladies and slightly more ginger than average Gentlemen. The final moments of Luton's awkward, humbling, Non-League era. One way or another by the end of this afternoon we could finally be back where we belong.

Remember being in the League?

Not "a" league, like the one we are in now, I mean "The League" with a capital L? Come on, you remember. It was this place that used to get stories about it on the local TV news when something happened to Luton? You used to be able to find it on the bottom of football betting coupons in the bookies? Come on?!

Even though it was only five years ago, the memory of Luton Town as fully-fledged member of The Football League is already resting uncomfortably in that same retro-too-soon-corner of my brain that The 1990s lives in. It seems coated in sepia tones and dated music and squad players whose faces I can't quite place.

I say uncomfortably because it wasn't that long ago surely? It's like when you start seeing TV programmes celebrating "The Noughties" like they took place some distant generation ago, only now to be recalled using dusty artefacts discovered in the former dwelling of H from Steps or summink.

What was it really like in the Football League? Was it really that different? Did I really used to wear boot-cut jeans?

Well let me remind you. The teams that sparkle beneath the flash bulbs and who grace the red carpets of England's division 4 (with a small d) have a level of glamour and prestige that you just don't find down here amongst the Skrill. Teams like Fleetwood, Burton, Morecambe and Accrington; these are magical places. Places we thought we might never visit again.

I for one never gave up on the dream of tasting the Hartlepool air on Tuesday night in January on more time.

And what of those away fans? Can anyone remember those? You used to see them wandering around town and filling at least one of the smaller pubs? They used to sort of congregate in the Oak Road and sing the mythical folk songs of their settlement to help pass the time during quieter moments.

Sometimes one of them would be overweight and would wear a really brightly coloured top and stand right at the front on his own so you couldn't miss him? Remember? No? I don't blame you. It seems a world away. A place to which we thought we may never return.

There are kids on the terraces, maybe even reading this now, who will have only been to games during this peculiar, unjust era below the League-proper; Kids who have never known the beauty of Bristol Rovers, or the serenity of Scunthorpe. We might even be some's dreaded, pitiful, "second" team, because, you know, Luton are only their Non-League team. I hope not too many.

But no more, brothers and sisters; because by the end of today, you and me mate, we'll be division 4.

There were a few who tried to make an example of us, who thought that we were just small enough to be forgettable. That we might just give up, scale down, sit down and shut up.

Well by the end of this weekend they'll realise that there were many more than their number, scattered across the globe but with a corner of their heart Lutonia, that refused to let this great club die.

And now they'll have to believe us. Because The Town are going up.

THE NON-LEAGUE PAPER



ESSENTIAL READING FOR FOLLOWERS OF THE NATIONAL GAME

BY CHIEF REPORTER STUART HAMMONDS

We've got a young lad in our office called Edd. He came in on work experience, impressed us with his karaoke skills at a Christmas party and got a job.

One of his big responsibilities is counting up the votes for our annual National Game Awards, in association with Budweiser Club Futures Programme.

And it's quite a task. We've been inundated with votes for all our categories. So this is a final call to make sure your club doesn't miss out from being recognised with the great and good of Non-League football. The winners will attend our big bash held at Fulham's Craven Cottage on Tuesday 13th May.

In recent weeks we've been making suggestions as to who could be up for consideration for each award. At the end of the month we'll be releasing shortlists ahead of final voting.

Prestigious

These are your awards too and we want you to have your say, with two of our most prestigious awards particularly needing your nominations.

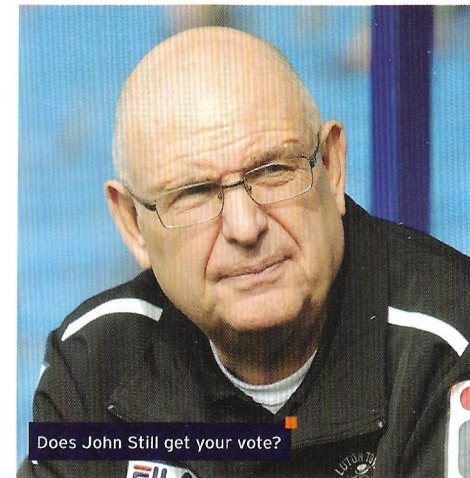
The Budweiser Club Futures Programme Unsung Hero Award gives the person who your club couldn't function without the recognition they deserve.

From unpaid secretaries to those who stand on the gate or sell programmes come rain or shine. All you need to do is tell our panel, in no more than 150 words, why your suggestion is the most deserving.

The William Hill Fan of the Year aims to give the most dedicated follower their day in the sun. Every club has a supporter who does more than any other, who never misses a game and sings the loudest on the terraces. Again, in no more than 150 words, let us know who you think is the best fan in the country.

We'd also love to hear your suggestions for The Football Foundation Community Club of the Year – what does your club do for the local area that no one else can match? Get in touch.

And here are the other awards you can vote for, with the exception of the PFA Fair Play Award – decided by our unique Fair Play table provided by the FA – and the Pro Direct Golden Boot, which goes to the man in Steps 1-4 who hits the back of the net more than anyone else.



Does John Still get your vote?

THE CATEGORIES

Our Game Football Player of the Year

Sportsbeat Young Player of the Year

S&C Slatter Manager of the Year

Reusch Goalkeeper of the Year

BetBright Step 3 & 4 Player of the Year

Mercury Sports Products Team of the Year

Toolstation Cup Run of the Year

Power Horse Lifetime Achievement

Huck Nets Goal of the Season

England C Player of the Year

Finally, you can vote via email – ngavotes@greenwayspublishing.com or by post to The Non-League Paper, Tuition House, St George's Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4EU

Edd is looking forward to receiving your votes!

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league look

THE LATEST IN THE SKRILL PREMIER

The Town will be crowned champions of the Skrill Premier this afternoon if they manage to beat Braintree.

The Hatters could, of course, already be up. A Cambridge defeat against Woking will ensure the Hatters promotion to League 2. Even a draw in that game will all but ensure the Hatters' promotion, due to far superior goal difference.

Richard Money's Cambridge side defeated Southport 3-1 last time out to keep alive their very slim hopes of overtaking the Hatters. Former Hatter Jason Walker netted for Southport.

The race for the Play-Offs became clearer on Tuesday night. Alfreton were the major losers of the evening, dropping out of the top five after a 4-1 thrashing at home to Aldershot.

Barnet failed to capitalise on Alfreton's defeat, drawing 1-1 at Southport. Grimsby suffered a setback with a 2-2 draw with Woking, but are four points clear of the chasing pack with two games in hand and will fancy their chances of a top five berth.

Salisbury were the only winners out of the chasing Play-Off pack after a 2-0 win at already relegated Hyde. Braintree's bad form continued with a 1-0 defeat against Macclesfield, leaving them two points adrift of the top five.

Kidderminster kept alive their hopes of a Play-Off push after a 1-1 draw at Forest Green. Harriers are six points adrift of Halifax but have an inferior goal difference.



Martin Allen is attempting to guide Braintree into the Play-Offs

Halifax travel to Barnet on Saturday which could be a crucial moment in both sides' Play-Off push.

Priceless

At the other end of the table Hereford secured a priceless 1-0 victory over Welling, giving them a one-point gap over Aldershot.

Tamworth are all but relegated after their 2-0 defeat to the Town on Tuesday night and they will be relegated if Hereford pick up a point against Gateshead regardless of what they do against Southport.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Gray (Luton)	27
Gregory (FC Halifax)	27
Williams (Aldershot)	20
Benson (Luton)	17
Norwood (FGR)	17
Tomlinson (Lincoln)	16
Jennings (G'by/Macc)	15
Rendell (Woking)	15

AVERAGE ATTENDANCES

Luton Town	7,135	Woking	1,440
Grimsby Town	3,463	Dartford	1,249
Cambridge United	3,077	Nuneaton Town	1,240
Wrexham	3,020	Forest Green Rovers	1,171
Lincoln City	2,323	Salisbury	1,005
Chester FC	2,214	Southport	1,003
Kidderminster	2,047	Tamworth	970
Aldershot Town	1,842	Braintree Town	963
Barnet	1,724	Alfreton Town	771
Hereford United	1,723	Welling United	733
FC Halifax Town	1,548	Gateshead	729
Macclesfield Town	1,490	Hyde	598

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Barnet v Halifax
Cambridge v Hyde
Dartford v Forest Green
Grimsby v Chester
Hereford v Gateshead
Kidderminster v Welling
Macclesfield v Aldershot
Salisbury v Lincoln
Southport v Tamworth
Woking v Alfreton
Wrexham v Nuneaton

hold the back page

WITH BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO'S SIMON OXLEY

Maine Road 1983; Wembley 1988; Baseball Ground 1990; Wembley 2009; Kenilworth Road 2014? The potential significance of today cannot be understated.

I can only agree with Nick Owen's assessment in last Saturday's programme, when he observed "this is the most important, the most urgent and the most stressful because it means so very much".

If promotion hasn't already happened or doesn't happen today...IT WILL, so it's only right that we analyse now some reasons why. (Plus someone else will be writing these notes on Easter Monday).

We should look back to some key matches and moments this season, starting with the defeat at Wrexham when a line in the sand was drawn, and skipper Ronnie Henry's 'discussion' with a supporter after the win over Lincoln here just over a week later.

Valuable

I would then fast forward to December and the trip to Alfreton, rightly billed as another of those difficult away games in which the Town have come unstuck in recent seasons. After 20 minutes they were 4-0 up. Then over Christmas the two wins over Barnet - the first in uncomfortable circumstances after Jonathan Smith's awful injury, and the second when the weather was also overcome to secure a valuable three points.

Many supporters, and media colleagues, have focused on the Tuesday night win at Macclesfield when Cambridge lost the same evening, but if I was pressed to name ONE game I would say the FA Trophy DEFEAT to Cambridge. Losing that replay meant that the trip to Nuneaton, and the home games with Hereford and Chester went ahead on their scheduled dates. Whilst Cambridge were otherwise occupied, Luton collected another nine points, scoring 15 and conceding none, and building the cushion of points which didn't allow the defeats by Woking and Halifax to be damaging.

Player of the Season? Steve McNulty, closely followed by Andre Gray, with honourable mentions to messrs Tyler, Griffiths and Benson.

Congratulations all round, and of course to the manager. But this has been five years in the making. We should not forget former managers who tried their hardest to get Luton back into the Football League.

Mick Harford for example signed Mark Tyler; Richard Money gave us a reality check with his honest assessment of this league; Gary Brabin signed Andre Gray; Paul Buckle signed Steve McNulty and oversaw the win at Norwich which reminded us what this club is capable of.

But of course John Still has blended all that together so very well. John's triumph has been to build on Ronnie Henry's initial intervention and forge "Team Luton". You have responded to this, and it's not just because of the results. People feel that they are all important, and all have a role to play.

There have also been some very successful signings of his own. Players don't always repeat former glories for a manager, but Paul Benson and Scott Griffiths are clearly exceptions. Add into the mix his vast knowledge of players, resulting in successful loanees like Joe Davis and Cameron McGeehan. And of course John Still is an extremely likeable man, who has given us thoughtful and reasoned interviews throughout the season. He has also given us the phrase now well and truly part of Luton Town folklore of "controlling the controllables".

Step forward as well the Luton Town directors. Criticism comes when things don't work out, so credit when the managerial appointment proves to be spot on.

Wonderful

There's a real buzz around the old place, and the wider Luton area. How wonderful to see so many Hatters shirts rather than Manchester United or Arsenal in the school playground. Mum and dads as well, not just the kids! Savour it, soak it in.

Nick Owen referred last week to the passion among so many families who follow the club, and my father-in-law and brother-in-law will again be thinking what a good idea it was to buy a season ticket last summer. The latter even got out of bed early on a week off to queue for Hyde tickets!

Nick's only regret was that his late father wouldn't be here to make it four generations enjoying these memorable days. Many of you will I'm sure be thinking of Hatters fans, either friends or relatives, who will only be here "in spirit" today. At 3CR we have been thinking how much Ian Pearce would have enjoyed the season. This one's for you Pearcey! The controllables are about to be controlled.



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today's teams



LUTON TOWN

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Mark Tyler | 20 David Viana |
| 2 Fraser Franks | 21 Luke Guttridge |
| 3 Danny Fitzsimons | 22 Shaun Whalley |
| 4 Jonathan Smith | 23 Matt Robinson |
| 5 Steve McNulty | 24 Jernade Meade |
| 6 Anthony Charles | 25 Ronnie Henry |
| 7 Alex Lawless | 26 Paul Benson |
| 8 Solomon Taiwo | 27 Andre Gray |
| 9 Jon Shaw | 28 Jim Stevenson |
| 10 Alex Wall | 29 Kane Ferdinand |
| 11 Jake Howells | 30 Alex Lacey |
| 12 Scott Griffiths | 31 Jake Woolley |
| 13 Mark Cullen | 32 Brett Longden |
| 14 Andy Parry | 33 Jerome Jibodu |
| 15 Luke Rooney | 34 Zane Banton |
| 16 Elliot Justham | 39 Ian Rees |
| 17 JJ O'Donnell | 43 Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu |
| 18 Dave Martin | 44 Andy Mangan |
| 19 Cameron McGeehan | |



BRAINTREE TOWN

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Nathan McDonald | 14 Newman Carney |
| 2 Ryan Peters | 15 Alan Massey |
| 3 Sam Habbergham | 16 Pat O'Connor |
| 4 Chez Isaac | 18 Bernard Mensah |
| 5 Matt Paine | 19 Dean Wells |
| 6 Brad Quinton | 20 Nik Hamann |
| 7 Ben Long | 21 Sam Griffiths |
| 8 Kenny Davis | 22 Jordan Cox |
| 9 Sean Marks | 23 Josh Laurent |
| 10 Dan Holman | 24 Joe Moore |
| 11 Daniel Sparkes | 25 Joe Maybanks |
| 12 Luke Daley | 26 James Mulley |

Referee: **L. Swabey** | Assistant: **A. Howson** | Assistant: **N. Hopton** | Fourth official: **A. Young**

HERE NEXT
v FOREST GREEN ROVERS
MONDAY 21st APRIL 2014 • 3PM
SKRILL PREMIER

